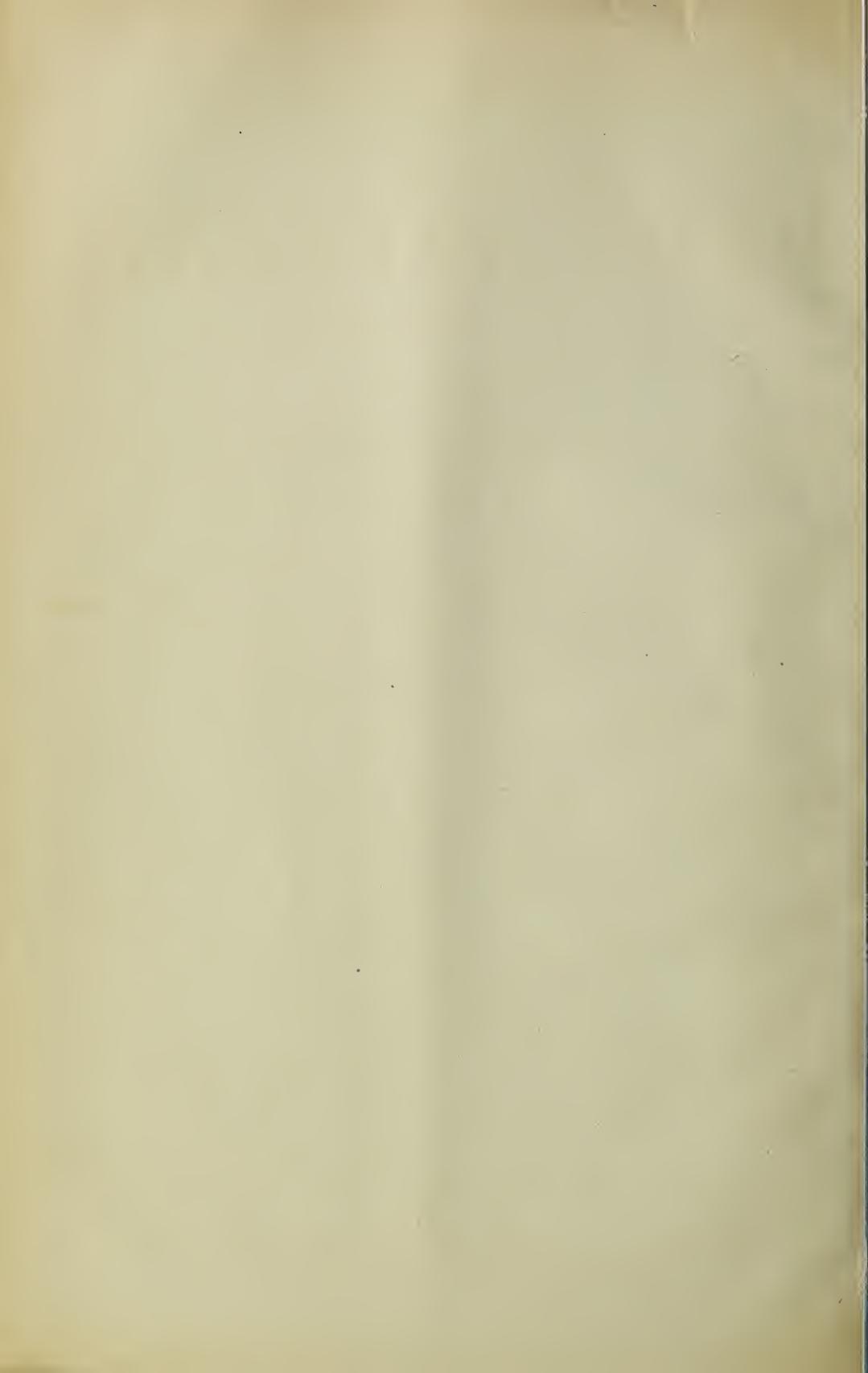


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VOL. IX.

JANUARY, 1872.

NO. 1.

THE
MARYLAND FARMER:

A
MONTHLY MAGAZINE:

DEVOTED TO

Agriculture, Horticulture and Rural Economy.

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PUBLISHED BY

S. SANDS MILLS & CO.

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THE MARYLAND FARMER:

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VOL. 9.

BALTIMORE, JANUARY, 1872.

No. 1.

OUR NEW VOLUME.

"A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU."

With the commencement of a new volume, we make our best bow to the many friends of the *Maryland Farmer*, and our warmest acknowledgments. And if we say that we desire more subscribers added to our already long list, we trust it may be regarded as arising quite as much from a wish to improve our magazine and its opportunities as from any selfish considerations. Of course, every man who seeks to extend his sphere of usefulness, hopes also to be benefited by his enterprise. But with us there is a double motive—an increased circulation of the *Maryland Farmer* may fairly be inferred to indicate an increased interest in agricultural pursuits. It certainly would give us an increase of friends—for every new subscriber may fairly be set down as a new friend, and one who has given substantial proof, in his subscription, of desiring to be regarded as such.

We are not to talk of politics at this season of the year, when Father Time is turning over a new leaf, and the record of the Past, with all its pains and sorrows and tribulations, and also with its subtle and often but too evanescent pleasures, is now to be put away with other and preceding records that go back into that remote antiquity of which only through the inspired writings and by tradition, we have any knowledge whatever.

We are now in what is popularly called the "Age of Progress." But change is not always "progress," and often turns out to be the most dangerous sort of retrogression. What is sometimes sneered at, "the simple faith" of our fathers, with its social amenities, its honorable instincts, and its reverence for law, has lost much of its meaning in these later days. We have entered through fire and blood, upon a new era, with its larger license and its consequent demoralization. Let us hope that the year upon which we are just entering will show at

least some breaks in the clouds that now darken our horizon, and that the influence of the honest and the good—and they, happily, as yet constitute the majority in every community—may be successfully exerted to overcome the tendency to dishonesty and laxity of morals that now prevail.

Will our friends pardon this little homily for the motive that inspired it? We like a free, companionable talk at a time when we can catch their ear and when the season, with its buds of promise, is propitious. We want, moreover, to be kept in their remembrance; to make our magazine a welcome visitor at many a country fireside; to say kindly things to the hostess, and bring a smile to the lips of the children. So, again, "A Happy New Year to all of you," and many of them. To the husband we send greeting, and hearty wishes for his prosperity. To the wife we say, in the expressive language of Eastern nations, may your shadow never be less; and to the children we send good wishes, and in due time happy marriages. Finally, to our friends of all classes, of both sexes and of all ages, we say that anything they can do for us at this the beginning of a new volume, in the way of getting us more subscribers, will be heartily appreciated and duly acknowledged.

To Planters, Farmers, Gardeners and Others.

The present number of the *Farmer* is the first for 1872, and in the twelve numbers we desire to give the experience of all, from time to time, in the progress made in any department of agricultural industry. Will our many readers communicate through our columns their successes and their failures? There is not one of the large number of readers who could not impart something that would be useful to one another. We therefore cordially invite them to become contributors during the year, and thereby add that much interest to our magazine. We propose to make extraordinary efforts during this year to issue such a magazine as will commend itself to the people of the Middle and the Southern States. Let every man add his mite to the entertainment we purposed to furnish for 1872.

THE LIFE OF A FARMER—SOME KINDLY SUGGESTIONS.

The life of a farmer can be made easier, pleasanter, and healthier, and his home more attractive, beautiful, and enjoyable, by a careful attention to certain rules too often forgotten.

First.—Too much work is frequently undertaken, or more land attempted to be cultivated than the means at his command will fairly allow. Having once started on the wrong path, and only looking to the profit that may accrue if all his plans can be accomplished, he presses all his energies into the service, only to find at the end of the season that the task he had imposed upon himself was too heavy, and that much of his labor has been wasted from the want of prudent, cautious calculation at the beginning. It would have been far better to husband his strength and that of the force at his command, so that the work shall be kept within the ability of the field hands and nothing slighted. Larger areas under cultivation than can be cropped successfully make more show and put on an outward appearance of prosperity; but it is wholly delusive where there is weakness behind it all. Less land, better tillage, and fewer mortgages would do some of our counties an immense amount of good, and not only keep the minds of embarrassed owners easy, but ultimately bring them, by concentration of means and power an increase of prosperity. The sentiment underlying the desire to preserve intact "the paternal acres," is one which every right-thinking mind will respect. But there is a point at which a sturdy adherence to it tends to work serious injury to the owner of property which has become an incumbrance. This is especially the case when the paternal acres are sadly weighed with paternal debts.

For the working farmer it is far better that he should lay out for the season only so much work as may be within his means and his capacity, and to do well whatever work he undertakes. It is also most desirable that the impoverished land owner, and there are many such, should partition off portions of his land into smaller farms, or sell outright what he cannot manage conveniently, and concentrate all his ability on a smaller number of acres. A hundred acres well manured and well tilled, will bring him more profit than three hundred acres indifferently manured and hurriedly tilled.

Second.—The work on the farm should be better systematized than it is usually. It is important that the work should be so arranged that there shall be time allowed for doing everything that may be required to be done, without undue strain, and allowing for contingencies, so that there shall be a

fair margin to count upon in any event. When once such regulations are laid down they should be rigidly adhered to, for any departure from them, unless under exceptional circumstances, would be likely to prove embarrassing. More time is frequently lost at the last moment in thinking what to do and how to do it, or where the means to do it shall be found, than in performing the work when once determined on and begun with method and conducted with precision. Think, then, beforehand; map out the things to be done, and it will be a matter of surprise after a while to find how easily the day's routine runs in its groove. Of course perfect regularity, under all conditions of time, place, and weather, is not to be expected, for the best plans sometimes fail just as the best regulated railway train may break a wheel or be shunted off the track by a damaged rail.

But any method carefully devised for carrying on the work of a farm systematically and with a due regard to the circumstances of the farmer or planter and his ability to command a sufficient force of field hands, when it is more wanted, is infinitely superior to a hap hazard, "happy go lucky" way of trying to do the same things and just missing it. There is nothing more beneficial in carrying on systematic farming than the keeping of a regular account of income and expenditure, and a simple diary of each days' occupation, with the condition of the crops and the state of the weather. We venture to say that the man who does this, for two years faithfully, will find it of so much advantage, as a means of reference and as assisting to correct slips of the memory, that he will scarcely fail to continue it thenceforward.

Third.—Pay more attention to the health of the body. Care in changing from thin to thicker garments, or the reverse, as the case may be, in accordance with the variations of the weather, will often prevent severe attacks of sickness. Malaria should always be guarded against, not only by caution in exposing one self to its baleful influences; but by the use of small doses of quinine, and in damp situations by keeping the apartments dry, even in hot weather some fire has to be used. The farmer, especially of the Middle States, is constantly exposed to sudden alternations of cold and heat, and is further liable to suffer from checked perspiration, when severe labor demands a short period of rest. It is such things as these combined with hard work, that break down, after a while, the strongest constitution. Reason would tell us that a life passed without violent mental strain, in the open country and in a pure atmosphere, would be more likely than almost any other, to reach the limit of three score years and ten. The statistics

show that the average duration of life, among persons engaged in agricultural pursuits, is actually less than that attained by persons engaged in some of the most laborious occupations of a town.

Fourth.—Make the home life cheerful and bright, as well as comfortable, see that the house is made pleasant, by neat adornments, and that it has also pleasant surroundings, books, papers, pictures, music, some of these at least, if not all, are within the reach of all those whose minds crave them, and whose eyes appreciate them. When homes are bleak, bare and cheerless, life is robbed of some of its chiefest blessings. The outward beauty of a country dwelling is a matter of no less consequence. Its adornment though simple and inexpensive, may yet be made to add a new charm to the inner comforts. Flowers over the porches, and shrubs and flowers on the lawn, are nature's arts, and though cheap, are in their natural beauty more attractive than any other thing that the costliest art can supply.

PHOSPHORUS IN PLANTS.

The wonderful substance (formerly so rare and costly,) phosphorus, is so essential an ingredient in the food of plants, that not one of any kind can flourish without it. This highly combustible body, so offensive to taste and smell, and withal so poisonous, enters the plant in combination with oxygen, with which it forms phosphoric acid. The entire supply of phosphorus employed in the arts comes from plants, and they hunt it from the soil atom by atom, and incorporate it into their structures. Animals feeding upon plants abstract the element, and it takes its place in the bones in combination with lime, forming basic phosphate of lime. We gather the bones of the dead animals, and after calcination, subject them to chemical treatment, and thus isolate the phosphorus in a pure state in large quantities. How curious is this cycle of changes and transformations! We can in no way obtain a clearer conception of them than by reflecting upon the fact that the phosphorus found upon the end of every friction match we use in our dwellings has been gathered from the soil by vegetables, and passing through their organization, it has taken its place in the bones of oxen, cows, or horses, and from thence passed into the laboratory of the chemist, where it is fitted to subserve the most useful purposes. If this substance had a tongue, what an interesting history of adventures it could unfold!

The amount of phosphorus or phosphoric acid in the soil is usually insufficient to meet the wants of the plant, and hence the farmer must furnish supplies if he wishes to increase his crops. Formerly there were but two sources of supply, that from

manure or animal excrement, and that from the bones of animals; but now we have a third source in the mineral coprolites, or phosphatic deposits, found upon the coast of South Carolina. From these substances what are popularly known as superphosphates are made and sold largely in the market.

The Superphosphate of lime, true and simple, as known to science, is a rather heavy whitish gray powder, without odor, having an acid taste. It is made from bones, by first calcining them and then dissolving the powder in oil of vitriol. In this method of manipulation we remove from bone phosphate of lime, two equivalents of lime, and replace them with water, and thus we have a superphosphate of lime. By a similar manipulation we can prepare superphosphate from the mineral rock masses before spoken of. The phosphatic deposits from Charleston, contain from 30 to 60 per cent. of phosphate of lime, and when powdered and properly treated with acid, they serve nearly as good purpose as bones, as a source of phosphoric acid. But if the powder is not acted upon by acid, it is almost wholly inert as a fertilizing agent. In this we see the importance of the faithful and skillful treatment of the substances by phosphate makers. Finely powdered bones serve a good purpose in the soil when used in the raw condition, as their structure is different from the coprolites. The gelatine they contain promotes decomposition, and aids in rendering the bony structure assimilable.—*Boston Journal of Chemistry.*

The Concentration of Property in England and Scotland.

In England one-half of all the land is now owned by less than a hundred and fifty persons, while the remainder is distributed among three hundred and fifty thousand. Half of the land of Scotland belongs to only a dozen owners. Nine members of the House of Lords own more property than any ninety members of the House of Commons. The nine members are the Dukes of Bedford and of Portland, the Marquises of Exeter, of Salisbury, of Northampton, of Westminster and of Camden, Earl Craven and Baron Portman. The Duke of Buccleuch is the owner of more lordly residences than any other person in England, the Queen not excepted. The latter possesses five residences, while the Duke of Buccleuch alternately, inhabits Montague House (London,) Richmond (Surrey) Boughton (Northampton,) Dalkeith, Drumlaugh and Bowhill, in Scotland—six altogether. Before 1858 Lord W. Cavendish, Duke of Devon, whose estate was divided after he died, could boast of seven such palatial residences, and the Duke of Sutherland has four.

The Marquis of Westminster owns the entire quarter in London, called Westminster, and his annual rent amounts to half a million pounds sterling,—and he is in arrears to the baker.

Our Agricultural Calendar.

FARM WORK FOR JANUARY.

How shall the farmer and the planter so conduct their agricultural operations during the year of which this is the commencement, as to have a reasonable assurance of profit from their labor and their outlay when the crops are gathered and marketed? It is one of the problems of husbandry, and one which, if a solution of it were entirely practicable, would place the agriculturist on a firmer basis than the merchant, and render his future perfectly secure. We do not undertake to lay down rules that shall be absolute in the matter, for the seasons are governed by laws which it is not in human power to control. But the foundation of all success in life lies in the intelligence that a man brings to bear upon his industry, combined with method, industry, and economy. The hints and suggestions we have offered elsewhere show in what direction much good may be accomplished both in respect to the operations of the farm and the comfort of the household. Beyond this we have but little at present to say, except that every year, with the increase of population, the profits of a farmer promise to be gradually increased and the value of farm property in the older and well populated States to be increased also. The work for the month is as follows:

Threshing Grain.

The present season is a good one for getting out grain that still remain in bulk. It is impossible at this time to say what the price will be in the spring, but when grain is stored away in the granary, any favorable opportunity for sending it to market and selling it to the best advantage may be seized. The quick turns in prices render this preparation, on taking advantage of them, peculiarly desirable.

Surface Drains.

Examine surface drains in wheat fields, and keep them free to carry off superfluous water.

Fire Wood.

See that an abundance of firewood is stored away for household use where coal is not available, and that provision be also made for a stock of fuel for the next season.

Fencing.

Get out fencing stuffs in the woods, if the weather should prove favorable, and under cover prepare it for use in inclement weather. See that a full supply of posts is hewed and morticed, and that wherever gates are wanted the proper means be taken to provide them.

Store Hogs.

These should be carefully attended to. Feed them regularly but moderately. Give them occasional supplies of charcoal and rotten wood, and see that their pens are kept well supplied with litter and their sleeping apartments with dry straw.

Sheep.

For the winter management of sheep, see the December number of the *Farmer*.

Materials for Compost.

Collect, as advised in previous numbers of the *Farmer*, all sorts of vegetable materials, marsh muck, dead leaves, turf, the scrapings of ditches, and the rubbish of the wood; pile and haul to the barn-yard to be used in the compost-heap with one-third the quantity of rich manure.

Fowls.

See that these are kept comfortable in their houses during the prevalence of severe weather. Feed them with a little chopped meat and parched corn to promote early laying, and furnish them with slacked lime and ashes, a little grain and an ample supply of fresh water.

Garden Work for January.

We have no suggestions to offer this month; nothing can be done in the open air in the garden, and it is only where hot beds are used, that the frames will require daily attendance, and the plants a supply, carefully administered, of air. In watering, use tepid water; and only uncover the lights on bright days and in still weather. Those who have no hot beds, may nevertheless, obtain a small supply of early plants, by using an oblong box, say two feet long and six or eight inches deep. Fill this with rich sifted mould, with a good mixture of sand, and sow the seed in it. Place the box in the kitchen window, exposed to the rays of the noonday sun, and water occasionally with lukewarm water. After the plants come up, cover them carefully on cold nights, to prevent the probability of their being touched with frost.

CHEAP HOT-BED.—A correspondent of the *Rural Carolinian* gives the following: Prepare a box or tub, fill it with rich earth; sow your seeds, then put the box under the stove until the seeds come up, then put it out in the open air, but protect from frosts. This may be repeated several times in one season."

A farmer in Pennsylvania who thoroughly underdrained his land says the money thus used, paid him better, than if he had invested in bonds, or bank, or railway stocks, as his capital is doubled every five years.

NOTES AND COMMENTARIES.

BY PATUXENT PLANTER.

Freaks of Nature.

The following extracts from my Farm Diary, show some curious, and, to me, very astonishing freaks in horticulture. "September 20th, 1871, I observed this morning a golden rod, three feet high, growing out of the rough bark of an old locust tree, two feet from the ground, and in same manner, in or on another locust tree, both near my house, a catulpa, two feet high and growing. How did they get there, except from seed deposited by birds or the wind? How did they vegetate without earth? How did they receive sustenance, during this long drought, and flourish in the crevices of the dry outside bark of these old trees? are questions beyond my ken."

Dogs.

I was glad to read your excellent editorial in the December number of the *Farmer*. Surely our legislature will heed the outcry of our farmers, and give their flocks some protection against the thousands of worthless curs that prey upon that important branch of rural pursuits. The loss annually sustained, by not having a stringent law taxing dogs, is incalculable. It is not only the actual loss, but the number of sheep that would be reared, if there was such a law, over the number at present. Few men care to risk keeping a flock of sheep, and fewer still choose to go to any expense in procuring valuable sheep of the best breeds, feeling no security against their immediate destruction, by the worthless cur of a neighboring gentleman of color. Wool is steadily increasing in price and mutton is becoming more popular as food. What the sheep interest is to England, it will soon be to this country—second to no other stock interest. Turnips and sheep have given England her high position as an agricultural nation, and with our mild, dry climate we could soon rival her in sheep, but for the continuously increasing depredations of the vile dogs. A strict law against dogs, rigidly enforced, would in a short time increase the number of sheep in Maryland 200,000, which would be an increase in the aggregate wealth of our State of \$1,000,000, yielding an annual interest of 20 per cent. or \$200,000 at the least, to the incomes of our farmers. All this is lost to us, from love of the ugly, miss-shapen, skulking — cur dog!

The Turf, Field and Farm.

The friends of Col. F. Skinner are rejoiced to see he has returned from the land of Egypt, in restored health to his post, as Agricultural Editor of that able and popular weekly, the *Turf, Field and Farm*. Long may he continue to wield his nervous pen in

the good cause! This journal is one of the most efficient contemporaries you have, in sustaining the agricultural interest of the country. Its efforts to build up and sustain on an elevated system, the noblest amusement known to man—horse-racing, with its adjunct, trotting, has done in a short time a wonderful work in adding to the material strength, wealth and power of the whole nation. Millions have been added to the real, or as some malcontents would say, *fictitious* value of the thoroughbred and the high bred trotting stock of the country, it has also stimulated wealth and enterprise into the improvement of the working stock of horses for the farm and road, by introducing the best horses for such purposes from abroad, such as Cleveland bays, Norman and other like famed breeds. It is a wonderful instance of the power of the press. What the old Spirit of the Times under the admirable Porter attempted and in part succeeded, years ago, the *Turf, Field and Farm* has accomplished. Millions of money is kept in circulation, which would be locked up or kept inert and useless to the masses, certainly, from the farmers, who now have a chance to share it if they will. For what farmer cannot at the large annual sales of the great breeding establishments of the West, supply himself with the best racing or trotting blood, at a low figure, and with care and judgment breed a Kentucky, or Bassett, or Grey Planet. The latter was bought for \$300 or \$400 and sold for \$10,000 after having realized within eighteen months from his first purchase more than that sum by his performances as a two year old. Bassett also brought a low price as a yearling, and is now the champion of the world, valued at 50 or \$75,000. These may be said to be exceptions, but it shows that there is money in rearing with some little extra care, the best blood, and what has been done, can be done again. These facts prove that the farmer need not rely solely on tilling the soil to reap a fortune, he can go on with his farm work, and raise at the same time, a Dexter, or a Harry Bassett, at but small cost of time or money, and if he does not strike a "full" streak of luck, he can get good "pairs" and realize a big thing in such a game, of breeding from the best stock, if it be called by the puritanical, a game of "brag." From the success in the efforts of the journal referred to in elevating the turf, and adding so immensely to the value of the horse, farmers can draw the just and logical inference that as with the equine, so it can be with other domestic animals. Breed from the best of the different races of animals, increase the premiums at the cattle shows, and sheep, cattle and hogs will rise in prices and be sources of great profit to such as enter with spirit and determination to be fore-

most. To do this, farmers must do as the racing men; join together and liberally support a State Society, so that a premium for the best ox, or hog, or sheep shall pay for the expense, trouble and risk of breeding, keeping and exhibiting it. Heavy premiums would bring out the best animals in the whole country and good would come of it. Our people rely too much on the products of the soil as crops, and too little on stock of all sorts. Why should Maryland depend on the far west or north, for her mules, and most of her farm horses, and carriage horses? Once was the time, the southern counties of Maryland was called the "Race-horse region of America," and not more than thirty years ago, this State was famous for its splendid hunters, coach horses and superior saddle horses. That day has passed but why should it not be revived? If ever there was a time, the present is, for attention to stock raising of the best sorts, labor being scarce and high. This is an appropriate season for these suggestions, as farmers now are arranging their plans for the year's operations. Let them make their calculations and see if it will not be to their advantage to begin at once to raise a superior colt, calf, hog, or sheep, and thus secure a reputation for having stock of some description of the highest character, or if not going to that extent, determine to raise more stock and have it high fed and carefully matured, so as to make it the best of its kind, let that kind be what it may, common or high bred.

Rail Roads the Aids to Agriculture.

I had intended to show the great advantages rail roads were to an agricultural community, by stating the results already produced in Prince George's, by the Baltimore and Potomac R. R., although the rails are just being laid, but my limits will not allow me more than to speak briefly of one enterprise it has been the means of starting. In anticipation of the completion of the road, that hospitable gentleman, intelligent planter and enterprising citizen, Clement Hill, Esq., who has a large and productive estate lying on the fine stream that forms the eastern boundary of the town of Upper Marlboro', has laid off a village on that part of his farm contiguous to the road and the depot at place, and has already sold a large number of lots, besides twenty on which neat cottages have been erected within the past year. Now if twenty houses are built a year before the rails are laid, what may not be the number after the road is in full working order? So it is to a greater or less extent along the whole route through the better lands in this county. Property is being improved and enhancing in value, although low prices are asked for what is in market, that

purchasers may be induced to come and settle, that hereafter property may bring high prices in accord with its enviable locality, being located between the capital of the nation, the capital of the state and the great city of Baltimore, and within an hour's travel of either place. I shall, more than probable, resume this subject, and with permission describe some of the beautiful farms and homesteads of this fertile region of country.

Agricultural Associations.

The editor of the *Illustrated Journal of Agriculture*, in writing upon the subject of agricultural associations, makes the following very sensible remarks: "Few things contribute more to the advancement of agricultural interests in a community, than a properly organized and a well conducted farmers' club. It leads culturists into experimenting and improving themselves, that they may effectually assist in carrying out the objects of the association by improving others; and the result of these experiments and improvements of, say twenty or thirty persons, make, when thrown together as a whole, a weekly or monthly collection, as the case may be, from which it were strange if each member was not able to choose some things of direct benefit to him in his calling."

MARYLAND WINES.—The editors of the *Baltimore Gazette* have received from Mr. Charles T. Schmidt, samples of Maryland wine, manufactured from the Concord and Ives grapes, grown by him at his vineyard near the Relay House, on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Planting was commenced in 1867, and the rotten rock soil having proved well adapted to the purpose, the area was extended to 21 acres. Last year the yield was 5,600 gallons. This season it was 11,000 gallons. The wine is red, and similar to that grown in the Medoc district. It is of a good quality and flavor. That from the Concord grape particularly is very pleasant to the palate, and though of lighter body, is not so acid as the more expensive wine. The enterprise of Mr. Schmidt will doubtless have the effect of opening up a new branch of industry in our State. Messrs. Geyer and Wilkens are the agents for the sale of these wines in Baltimore.

TO PREVENT SKIPPERS IN HAMS.—A *Rural Californian* correspondent gives the following, as the best method of putting up hams, to prevent skippers: "Kill the hogs in time to have the meat cured and smoked by the 1st of March, at that time take the hams and rub the flesh part well in oak ashes, leached and pack away in barrels or troughs, and the skippers will not disturb them. Since I adopted the above plan, I have never had a skipper in my meat."

For the Maryland Farmer.

JAKOBB DUNK PAPERS

ON

FACTS, FILOSOPHY AND FARMIN.

PAPER NUMBER IV.

ON IMMIGRATION.

(Continued.)

"J-o-o-o-h Joodge," came ringing into my ears one morning as I was passing the "good old" habitation of Mr. Dunk. I looked around and saw Jakobb running down the lane towards me.

What can be the matter, I thought. Has his hen laid two eggs a day, or his cow brought forth a prodigy of a calf to "take all the shine entirely out o' yer highfalutin' ported stock," as the Codgeites affirm the native stuff can do? (Yes, spasmodically.)

"Light, Joodge, and walk up," said Jakobb, very much elated about something. "I've jus' cum across a thing which makes me think you'd like to spend a few moments in huntin' it out; besides," with a snap of his fingers, "I've got you now."

I supposed Jakobb had detected some flaw in my transactions and intended to "face me out" about it, so I replied *a la Tallyrand*, and assumed the offensive at once.

"I am glad, Mr. Dunk, to find you in such good spirits this morning, and to receive from you such a cordial greeting. When neighbors greet, they ought to exhibit pleasure at the meeting, as heirs of a common heritage, as members of a common brotherhood, and co-laborers and co-partakers in the toil and fruition of a common harvest-field. I am glad," I continued, alluding to Jakobb's loss from stray dogs, "that you have had no more mad dogs about here."

This perceptibly modified the temperature of Jakobb's mental atmosphere, but he went on with what I soon detected was the deliberation of a "set thing."

"You believe in newspapers, don't you?"

This was very indefinite, but I answered—"Yes."

"I thought so," said Jakobb. "I've heerd you say, when you wanted me to take the 'Ringpiece,' 'Maryland Farmer,' and them New York papers, that them fellars knew all about it. Now, I've got here a piece of newspaper that came around some store goods Jakey brought from the Codge and as I was lookin' it over I came across jes them same opinions I was tellin' ye about the other day, and as it's all here in print, I hope you'll give in that I was right about it. Here it is," and Jakobb read as follows:

(Communicated.)

HARD SCRABBLE, Jan. 26, 1871.

MR. EDITOR—Seeing a card in your valuable paper recommending the Hon. _____, of _____ county, as the Democratic candidate for the next Governor of Maryland, reminds me that Hard Scrabble has a gentleman in every way eminently qualified for that high and honorable position. I know some envious craven will say that he is a carpet-bagger, or that he is a dwarfed scion of the Massachusetts Emigrant Aid Society, or that he has already busied himself too much with our affairs, and thrust his *up country notions* unasked upon us.

Well, sir, if he were obnoxious to all the charges I have enumerated, would they make him so objectionable when it is remembered that with an entire abnegation of self in the cause of human progress, he stands in the van—instructing the ignorant, encouraging the weak, and making himself, as it were, the Moses of our material redemption? By his untiring industry he has organized Agricultural Clubs, Lyceums, and Labor Associations, and now he is engaged in the arduous work of having our road law so amended that Old McAdam will be nowhere. Then, he proposes to build a Town Hall, in which he can lecture the people on the renovation of worn out lands, political economy, the legality and profits of usury, and sometimes he will give an experience lecture and show what he is doing with his old, worn-out farm. For all which we, the citizens of Hard Scrabble, feel so gratified that we intend to press his claims before the Convention as our next candidate for Governor.

OSCAR.

"There," said Jakobb, "now you see what the papers thinks of 'em."

I took the scrap of paper, turned it over, but could find nothing on it to indicate the county in which it was published. I was and am perfectly ignorant of the origin of and the motive which induced these remarks: but two things are evident; it is an assault upon somebody for devotion to the welfare of the people, and that somebody a "furriner;" and it relies for its success upon the prejudice of the people at war with their advancement.

"What do I think of it!" replied I. "I'll tell you what I think of it very quickly."

And for just seven minutes, by the clock, I read (no, I *talked*) Jakobb a lecture to the effect that to be successful, respected and influential, the press must wield its immense enginery for justice and right; that the principles of the truth would survive every effort an infamous press might make for their subversion, and that the action of those principles was like the operation of physical laws, bearing within themselves an inherent strength sufficiently powerful to establish their supremacy against every obstacle.

To this philippic, (for I gave gospel measure upon the subject) Jakobb offered what Bill Arp, Esq., called "the most tremenjous silence ever seen," and I left the question with him on that basis. * * * *

Col. Raine was right when he declared, amid the

applause of the members, in the State Labor and Immigration Convention, which met in Baltimore, December 13, 1870, that "to make immigration to Maryland successful, we must *popularize* the movement!" But to do this—in view of the facts previously cited—it will be necessary first to *revolutionize the sentiment of Maryland* concerning it.

Let us now look at a few of the practical bearings of the subject of Maryland Immigration.

First, its importance to cities. The city of Baltimore numbers 267,000 inhabitants: of this number 75,000 were born outside of it. What would Baltimore trade amount to, deprived of 75,000 of her people? Instead of the proud position of sixth city of the United States, it would be the ninth.

What is the effect of immigration in the rural districts? I know a place upon which only two dollars taxes were paid a few years ago. An industrious German bought it, built it up, improved it, and now pays fifty dollars taxes, and has just finished building a church near the property. These are familiar representative instances upon which comment is unnecessary. I need only point to the up-building of our whole country by immigration, and state that it found this western world a howling wilderness, and we behold it now the right arm of civilization.

In the next place we come to the great question which was discussed so earnestly at the State Labor and Immigration Conventions held in Baltimore—how can we induce immigration to Maryland?—and to examine this matter fairly, let us go back to the first Immigration Convention and the views advanced there.

These views were represented by two different parties; one, headed by Col. F. Raine, held the following views:

1. That that the movement should be popularized, that is, it should be supported by the people for their own advancement.

2. That a County Immigration Society should be formed in each county to ascertain the needs of each county, what lands are for sale and their price, and what facilities are offered to immigrants; such local organization to take control of local matters, co operate with the parent Society in Baltimore and whose presiding officer should be a vice-president of the central organization.

3. That the international Immigrant Union of Baltimore, as the central organization, be recommended to the people of Maryland for their encouragement and support, as an agency calculated to accomplish the end in view if supported and encouraged by the people. The office of this Society is to furnish laborers to farmers and others; to sell such lands as may be placed in their hands for the purpose, to immigrants and others, and by agents

at home and abroad endeavor to divert to Maryland the streams of immigration which are flowing so copiously to other parts of our common country.

(It has been charged that this Convention was a "scheme." As the disinterested author, or joint author of every resolution discussed by the Convention, it is necessary to state emphatically that such was not the case, as the prime mover in the matter did not ask one cent of State aid, relying for good results in the premises entirely upon the successful popularization of the movement, and I know whereof I testify.)

This plan was adopted by the Convention, but it appeared unsatisfactory and inconclusive to the other party headed by Hon. Jas. T. Earle, who supported what was known as "Trieber's Resolution," which was as follows:

"*Resolved*, That this Convention recommend to the Legislature the appointment of agents to represent Maryland abroad in the matter of immigration, said agents to devote their time exclusively to the advancement of the interests of Maryland in their respective spheres, to be furnished with the necessary documents by the State, and receive a compensation commensurate with the importance of the interests involved."

This was so well received by the Convention that an amendment by Mr. Earle was accepted, to the effect that a committee of one from each county in the State be appointed to request the Legislature to appropriate \$200,000 to carry out the plan—and this plan, in this shape, *also passed the Convention*, although its provisions are antagonistic to the plan previously adopted, and to represent which a committee was also appointed to address the Legislature. How that Honorable Body will reconcile these two standpoints assumed by the same convention when its delegates appear before it to represent incongruous positions, remains to be seen, but the truth consists in a selection of the good features of each, which, combined in one plan and faithfully executed, would, no doubt, secure the end in view, viz: the occupation and improvement of the untitled lands of Maryland. The proper plan, (the combination alluded to) would be something like the following:

1. The control by a Central Immigration Society or corporation of matters pertaining to the immigration to Maryland of laborers and those desiring to purchase our lands, such Society to keep a record of lands for sale, make arrangements for their inspection at the smallest possible cost to the purchaser, and protect him from fraud while seeking a home amongst us, the control above alluded to to be under the *proper* supervision or subject to the inspection of a State Commission of Immigration. (It is not designed that the operations of this So-

ciety should interfere with other similar private agencies in the State.)

2. The thorough organization of each county into a County Immigration Society, to keep the Central Society informed, first, of the number, character, advantages, and prices of the lands for sale; and second, of what new hands it could find employment for in the county.

3. In view of the difficulty (perhaps *impossibility* would be a better word) of county organization, the prominent real estate agent in the county would be a good substitute, as he would be remunerated for his trouble by his commission on lands actually sold, said commission to be paid by the seller as usual.

4. The appointment by the Legislature of an agent to operate in the British Islands, one for Germany and Northern Europe, and one for the Northern States. In the last mentioned section large numbers of people are debating the question, where shall I seek a more congenial soil and climate?—and a few words from one who knows the advantages we offer and has encountered their difficulties, would turn the scale immensely in our favor.

As adjuncts to this scheme, or rather to popularize it, the following suggestions may be deemed worthy of consideration:

1. The repeal of the law prohibiting settlers from owning land until they have become naturalized.

2. The necessity of keeping the question from the political arena.

It possesses claims which commend it to *every* intelligent patriot, unaided by the sanction of a political sect; experience having taught us that the interests of the people will best be promoted by placing independent questions upon their own merits, free from the intrigues and passions of a political campaign.

3. The division of our farms.

As one difficulty of our position is too much land for the labor, this remedy presents itself, but does not necessarily imply a decrease in aggregate production. By a diminished area and the employment of the forces of scientific agriculture, an increased aggregate production would generally ensue, but as the farmer is loth to part with or divide his broad acres, we come to—

4. The erection of comfortable tenant houses, with an allotment to each of not less than two acres of land. Upon this the laborer may support his family, and always find remunerative occupation when his services are not supplying a local demand.

Let us now take a financial view of the labor aspect of this question, and see what the State *ought* to do in the premises.

It is estimated that each able-bodied man placed upon our soil from other countries, adds one thou-

sand dollars to our aggregate wealth. This is a low estimate of his value. Does not capital receive more than sixty dollars nett per annum from each laborer it employs? But we will take that estimate. If Maryland requires five thousand new laborers per annum (the number set by the Commissioner of Agriculture) they would represent a capital of five millions of dollars. With the net profit referred to this would add three hundred thousand dollars annually to the aggregate wealth of the State, and this represents only a portion of the pecuniary advantages in the premises. Nineteen and a quarter cents on the hundred dollars (the State tax) would bring the State \$57,750 annually.

I am aware Mr. Earle's figures amount to millions upon this same subject, but I have based my conclusions on an exhibition which, perhaps, is below the truth, and in view of this modest calculation I think the State would be justified in appropriating twenty-five thousand dollars annually in support of an efficient Bureau of Immigration to accomplish the end in view.

In these remarks I have purposely left untouched the character and condition of the labor we now employ. The claims of special localities have also been ignored. If, in the emergency which presents itself in our rural embarrassment and impoverishment, we deal with the numerous questions connected with this important subject in no spirit of tainted partizanship or local prejudice, but with a pure devotion and an enlightened patriotism, the work will not be futile and void, but productive of results which will be felt for good when generations now unborn shall wield the pen and guide the plow, rejoicing. And this cannot but be the issue of the movement if we remember that our object is to people the waste lands of Maryland; to make her valleys green and beautiful with the growing grass, and her hill-tops golden with the ripening grain; these giving effective promise that seed time and harvest shall not fail within our borders, and that peace and prosperity shall abide with us in time to come.

TO MAKE A PIG TROUGH.—Take two boards as long and wide as desired, one inch or more thick; have one of the boards narrower than the other, equal to the amount of the thickness; for instance, if inch boards, have one seven and the other eight inches wide. Plane the edge of the narrow board straight and nail the two boards together in V shape, the wide on to the edge of the narrow. Saw the ends off square and nail to these boards equal in width, and long enough so as not to be easily upset. If the trough is long, notch a board under the center for a support.

For the Maryland Farmer.

Buckwheat Crop—Failures and Enquiries.

BY J. F. WOLFINGER.

Whenever a farmer raises an extra good crop of any kind, we are pretty sure of seeing an account of it in our agricultural papers. Very few of our farmers, however, are willing to give us an account of their *failures* in farming. But as we may learn lessons of wisdom from our failures as well as from our successes in farming, I will give you a brief view of our late failure in raising buckwheat in Union County, Pennsylvania.

Long experience has taught our farmers that our *late* sown crops of buckwheat always yield the most and best grain. Our late crops of this grain have, for a good many years past, been sown from the 25th of June to the first of July. But some of our farmers have, of late years, tried a still later period of sowing with increased success, but have this year met with an almost total failure of this valuable grain.

I wanted my farmer-tenant, who farms my land on the shares, to sow our buckwheat on the 10th of July, 1871, but he preferred putting it off until the *middle* of July, as my neighbors, Knedt, King and others had, for some four or five years past, sown their buckwheat about that time, and had always obtained large crops of superior grain, as their crops had ripened without injury from frosts, no severe frosts having occurred until the month of October.

"Well," said I, "if our neighbors have obtained good crops of buckwheat from such late sowings, it has been the result of chance and their good luck rather than of their good judgment. For it will take about two months and a half of time to grow and ripen a crop of buckwheat—which will run the ripening of such sowings into October. And as buckwheat plants are of a cold nature, and soft and tender, and so easily destroyed by frost, I am afraid we shall have some September frosts that will spoil our crop."

But my reasoning with my tenant was useless. He would have his own way, and so sowed our buckwheat on the 15th of July. And about two months afterwards, in September, we had several sharp frosts that spoiled our crop so much that we only got five bushels of buckwheat from our patch that would, if ripened, have given us from fifty to one hundred bushels of heavier and better grain than we got. And the crops of my neighbors were as much injured by frosts as my own. Our failures were plainly the result of *too late sowing*. A two weeks' earlier sowing would have secured us good crops of superior grain.

Since our failure, curiosity has led me to see what

Von Thœr, the father of improved farming in Germany, says in regard to buckwheat-raising in his book entitled, "Principles of Practical Agriculture." And he says—

"Buckwheat was brought from the East at the time of the Crusades, and has not yet lost its sensibility to cold. The slightest hoar frost destroys it. The sowing must, therefore, be deferred until all danger of cold nights is over. I have, however, known buckwheat to be destroyed by frost as late as St. John's Day. It should not, therefore, be sown earlier than the middle of May or later than the middle of June, for if sown at a later part of the season, it will be liable to be attacked by the white frosts of autumn before its seed is ripe, and then the quantity of grain will be much diminished. * * * The success of buckwheat is very precarious. It depends not only on the general state of the weather throughout the season, but also on the particular time which may have been *chosen for sowing*. A week earlier or later often makes a very great difference. Hence, those who wish to make sure of their crop of buckwheat, sow it in *three or four separate portions, and at different times*. * * * The ripening of the grain is very unequal, for the plant is continually flowering and setting. We must, therefore, cut it at the time when the greatest quantity of grain is ripe."—(Von Thœr, pp. 441 & 442.)

The soil for buckwheat should be moderately poor, as a rich soil will produce large and luxuriant stalks that contain but little grain; and the soil, if weedy, should be ploughed twice and well harrowed to destroy its weeds and give the buckwheat plants a fair chance to grow. The soil should be dry when the seed is sown, and for some time afterwards. But as soon as the plants have pushed out their third leaf, they should have rains, that their leaves may be fully developed before their blossoms appear. And then, during their long blossoming period, the plants need alternate sunshine and rain to make them grow and produce an abundance of good blossoms, and then after the blossoms are fully expanded, dry, sunshiny weather again to make the seeds fill up with the farina or flour, and ripen generally into an even and early harvest. Sometimes the first blossoms do not set, or if they do, produce nothing but barren seeds that contain but little or no flour, in which case we must look to the later-formed blossoms which usually yield the heaviest and best grain. And after the crop is cut, many of its yet green grain heads will ripen into good grain while lying on the field and drying, especially where aided by little sprinklings of rain. A heavy fog and a heavy dew make the buckwheat plants so full of water and so soft and tender that when the sun's heat falls suddenly and

fiercely upon them, their leaves dry so rapidly that they become as it were scalded or burnt, which causes a failure of the crop. And frosts are still more destructive. We thus see that buckwheat is a very precarious and uncertain crop, as it requires such a variety of peculiar and favorable circumstances to insure its full growth and yield. If any of your readers have tried the sowing of buckwheat in April, May, or June, I should be glad to learn from them through your valuable *Farmer*, where they sowed it and what was the result of such early sowings, and what, upon the whole, they consider the best time for sowing buckwheat. A knowledge of the best time for sowing this crop in the various sections of our different States will, if properly acted on, give us, as a nation, a greatly increased buckwheat crop in 1872.

Alvira, Union County, Pa., Dec. 1st, 1871.

CULTURE OF SEA-KALE.

(*Crambe Maratima*.)

The following practical article is the best we have seen published anywhere. There seems to be very little general information on the subject of its culture, and therefore subjoin the mode adopted by David Foulis, published in the *Rural New Yorker*:

"The culture of this useful culinary vegetable is far too much neglected or misunderstood in this country, as it is very rarely it can be seen offered for sale in any of our public markets, its cultivation being almost entirely confined to private gardens, where professional gardeners are employed. This state of things arises from a mistaken notion that its production is attended with considerable difficulty in this climate; but having grown it on both sides of the Atlantic, I can testify that with the same care and attention it will thrive as well and be as productive here as in other less favored countries, and I hope to see ere long, a good supply of this most excellent vegetable in all our markets.

As the name implies, sea-kale is a plant of marine affinities, and has been cultivated in the European gardens for the last century, the peculiar flavor partly developed by the branching process used, making it a general favorite on the dinner-table. Where no offsets can be had, sea-kale can easily be propagated by seed, which can be supplied by any reliable seedman. Sow in spring, as soon as the state of the ground will admit, in hills four feet between the rows, two and a half feet from hill to hill in the rows, thinning out when properly started to three or four plants in each hill, the size of your plantation to be determined by the wants of the grower. The commercial man might devote acres to this vegetable profitably, whereas for a private family a few hills would suffice.

A more speedy process than the above is by detaching rooted offsets from established plants, or by root-cutting, with several eyes attached; but this can only be done where a previous plantation has existed, or where a supply can be had from a nurseryman or market gardener. If the offsets have been tolerably strong, and the ground well prepared by trenching and manuring before planting strong crowns will be formed the first season, and the sea-kale will be ready for blanching (the only form in which it is fit for table) the following season. Raised from seed it would require three years at least before being available for forcing.

The earliest method of blanching sea-kale is by covering the crowns in spring time with leaf mould or sand to the depth of fifteen inches; light and air being thus excluded, the young shoots will become blanched as they grow through the covering. Another method is by covering the crowns in the open ground with cans made for the purpose, or large inverted flower-pots where cans cannot be had, then cover the whole with several feet of heating material, such as leaves, stable manure, &c., thus both blanching and forcing at the same time. Another method is by transplanting the crowns into some frame, hot-bed or forcing-pit, the requisite covering for blanching always being attended to under all circumstances.

By these different processes a constant supply of this most desirable vegetable can be kept up from November to May, care being taken when gathering the crop not to cut too close to the ground, say three inches; this will allow the remaining buds to develop from side shoots, and a successive crop will be insured.

Sea-kale has a flavor peculiarly its own, but superior to all blanched vegetables; it can be cooked and dressed like asparagus or made to form a most agreeable ingredient in soups and has only to be known to be appreciated."

LEAVES FOR BARNYARD AND STABLE.—Forest leaves are excellent to supply the stable yards, and where straw is scarce also, the cow stables and hog pens. They can be most conveniently gathered after the first snow, or at least before the wintry blasts have scattered them. They then lay compactly, and being moist can be handled with greater facility. A cart with a few standards stuck in the sides will hold a considerable quantity; and the best thing to gather them or load them with is a wooden hand-rake; a wooden four-tined straw-fork is also very handy when the leaves are moist. Leaves absorb large quantities of the liquid manure, and are an excellent fertilizer in the spring. They can be gathered, too, when other labor about the farm is slack.

—*Germantown Telegraph*.

ANALYSIS OF CROPS, SOILS, &c.

To the Editors of the Maryland Farmer:

A great deal has been said and written in regard to frauds in the composition of Fertilizers, and never having kept such mercantile commodities for sale, and never expect to, will venture to write a short article on the subject.

As regards veracity, I have no hesitation in saying, that those who deal in fertilizers, rate as high as do the most prominent merchants in the city of Baltimore.

The secret of non success appears to be, that planters and farmers do not know what ingredients are contained in their soil; they do not plow, cultivate and apply fertilizers properly, and at the right time; have no regard to locality and what fertilizers ought to be applied, to produce a certain crop. In the twelfth district of Baltimore county, for example, Lime has no effect, probably because iron prevails in the soil, gypsum, (except the little sulphur it contains) likewise. In the two counties on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, which are surrounded by salt water, gypsum and salt we are told, has no effect; probably the same would be the result, by the application of lime. Stable manure with certain accumulations around farm dwellings and their surroundings, and by a judicious rotation of crops and a free use of gypsum, I trow the most judicious mode of improving land and reaping abundant crops. Market gardeners adjacent to large cities, use for their vegetable crops, stable manure almost exclusively; but when it has to be carted beyond three or four miles, it is too expensive for farm purposes. Gardeners as a class seldom read, they know that stable manure produces abundant crops of cabbages, onions, bee's, &c., and by extraordinary industry and economy, manage to live comfortably, give their children a plain education, and at the end of the year have a small surplus.

I do not believe we will ever farm profitably or successfully, till we adopt a regular system of analysis. We are like unto a quack doctor that gives his patient a mixture of a dozen ingredients to cure a certain disease, hoping that one or two of them will produce the desired effect. The analysis of the cereals can be found in Allen's or any other well authenticated farm book, but it appears that the herbage and vegetable crops, have received only partial attention in that direction.

The late report by the Rev. Mr. Regester in regard to the extraordinary progress of the Maryland Agricultural College, since his administration, shows that the machine has received an impetus that will result in early and future usefulness. It is the only report, to my knowledge, that has emanated

from that institution-extraordinary since its foundation. I know Mr. R. possesses great energy and a practical and scientific knowledge of agriculture. I hope he will enlarge on the good work, by having our crops analyzed and by inviting Maryland farmers to send samples of their earths for inspection. It can be done by the professors when teaching a class of boys, and during leisure hours, any farmer of enterprise will willingly pay a suitable fee for the information. By such knowledge a farmer would order such fertilizers or chemicals from his factor, omitting all the ingredients abundantly contained in the soil, and the packages so marked that the farmer would know which to apply for the production of various crops, being strictly guarded by the report of a competent chemist, thus realizing by such a system a saving of from 40 to 50 per cent. off the price of fertilizers. In addition, farmers ought to be informed what ingredients are contained in the various guanos, phosphates, bone dust &c., as advertised for sale. The professors gathering samples from the dealers, at stated times, and reporting the result in some agricultural magazine.

Thoughts on the waste of Straw, Corn Husks and Composition.

I have noticed, but not recently, on the western shore of Maryland and east Virginia, immense piles of wheat straw, corn husks and tobacco sticks left out to waste. In the Baltimore market, wheat straw commands \$12 per ton, and corn husks more than double that amount. On nearly all the plantations on these lands is to be found a tobacco press, which I suppose with trifling expense can be made to press straw and husks into bales; corn husks may also be pressed into sacks by having a sack holder, the sack is held upright, the husks thrown in and tramped down by a man inside the sack, the top of the sack is secured by pack thread or single tie rope yarn. The best presses for the purpose however, are those used for pressing hay and cotton. Were the tobacco waste and cotton seed composted and annually returned to the land, we would hear less of exhausted tobacco and other lands. I speculate on the following plan of decomposition. First, form an oblong pile commencing with twelve inches of rich earth and on it six inches of tobacco sticks and cotton seed, or either, dash over it a plentiful supply of black water, follow with twelve inches of fresh horse dung and seven inches of rich earth, and so continue to the end; when the pile reaches the height of about four feet, narrow in, forming a comb roof, cap off with twelve inches of clay or grass sod. When there is a plentiful supply of black water in the barn yard cisterns, open a trench the entire length of the pile, and fill it with black water repeatedly; when it sinks cover in; the

water will enrich the pile and assist the progress of decomposition, during the winter, or if the pile inclines to fire, cut it down, mix and reform. In the spring when carting out, mix again. I was delighted to notice in the March number of the *Maryland Farmer*, an article from my late preceptor, Benjamin Hallowell, who I used to look upon when a boy, with veneration and respect, mingled with awe. I hope he will long live to furnish us with a continuation of scientific and practical agricultural records.

— PLOWMAN.

PUMPKINS AND TURNIPS—ENQUIRIES.

To the Editor of the *Maryland Farmer* :—

What is the best month and time of the the month for sowing pumpkins and turnips in and among our field crops of Indian corn, and what are the best ways of embedding pumpkin and turnip seed in the soil to secure us large crops of pumpkins and turnips? I find that heavy and long-continued rains, while our pumpkin vines are in blossom, are very apt to make our pumpkin crop prove either a total or a partial failure, and this for two reasons; first, because the rain enters and destroys it, or as some express it, *drowns* the vitality of the blossoms; and second, because the falling rains keep the bees and other insects from flying about and carrying the pollen of the male blossoms to and into the female blossoms that are uninjured by the rain, and so fertilizing the plants, that is, make them produce pumpkins. If we could get our pumpkin vines to blossom when we have no rainy spells, until the plants are fertilized and the little pumpkin knobs appear, we would be pretty sure of having plenty of pumpkins. So, if we knew exactly how many days a pumpkin seed must be in the ground before its shoot appears above ground, and also how many days its vine must grow before its blossoms appear, we might be still more able to avoid such plantings as would blossom in our long rainy spells.

Now, who can give us useful, practical knowledge on these important enquiries?

— A PENNSYLVANIAN.

RAISING PUMPKINS AMONG CORN.

F. T. De Long, of Saratoga county, New York, writing to the *Country Gentleman*, says:

Corn, as we all know, is a warm-climate production, and needs all the warmth of the sun it can get. Where the land is rich, pumpkin vines will almost cover the ground, and consequently the sun's rays cannot shine on and warm the ground, which is so necessary to a good growth of corn. This year, by way of experiment, I plowed up four acres of moderately rich land, and planted two acres in corn

and pumpkins in the usual way, and the rest half corn and pumpkins separate. The first grew well until the vines began to run, and then it seemed almost to stand still—the stalks were large enough, but it did not ear well; while that without the pumpkins was the best piece of corn in the neighborhood. About two-thirds was good for seed, while there was more than enough pumpkins to pay for the extra land.

A correspondent, writing to the *Cincinnati Gazette*, gives his experience in raising pumpkins among corn, which differs from the tests made by Mr. De Long, as above. He says:—

“My step-father has raised pumpkins ever since I can remember, and the larger his crop the better was he pleased. He feeds them to his horses, cows, and hogs, which are always fatter and better than his neighbors' hogs. His pumpkins are grown among his corn, and he says that managing this way he can make more pork or beef from the products of one acre than one and a half acres of corn without pumpkins. This year I have myself raised a few wagon loads of pumpkins. My corn yielded as much where I gathered three wagon loads of pumpkins to the acre as where I gathered none. Where no pumpkin vines grew, late weeds spring up most. I am so satisfied with the value of the pumpkin crop, that I intend trying more pumpkins next year.”

The *Gazette* adds: we are very glad to receive the above from our correspondent. He has opened up a most valuable and interesting subject for discussion. Since the introduction of turnip culture into England, the profits of farming have immensely increased. If we cannot raise turnips to the extent the English do, we can raise pumpkins and sugar beets; and with these things to fill up to repletion the big stomachs of neat cattle, and to give variety of food to swine, we can, with our corn and oil cake meal, challenge the world in the cheap production of beef and pork, and in the enrichment of our soil by the large amount of manure thus made. While none can deny that the corn grown on an acre of good ground contains more fat-producing food than can possibly be raised on the same amount of land devoted to anything else, yet it is not wise to lose sight of the importance of mingling some bulky articles along with this highly concentrated and nitrogenous substance.

TURNIPS AMONG CORN.—A correspondent of an exchange recommends to occupy the soil monopolized by weeds, with the Purple Top Turnip seed at the last dressing of the corn crop, and “scuffling” it in, or sowing just before a rain and allowing that to cover it, he can have a hundred bushels of good turnips per acre, if the soil be rich and well culti-

vated, instead of a host of worthless and pestilent weeds.

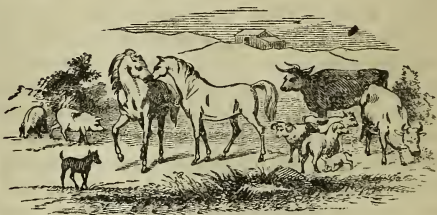
CULTIVATION OF PUMPKINS.—Where the fertility of the field will allow of an extra drain upon its resources, it is a good practice to plant pumpkin seed among the corn. But where this is not advisable, it would be well to select an acre or more of ground and prepare it especially for this excellent stock vegetable. Plough as for corn; harrow, cross harrow, and roll—lay off shallow furrows ten feet apart each way; where the furrows cross each other, throw a shovelful of rich manure or compost, or a handful of manipulated guano, draw the soil over it with a hoe, making the hill flat and about three inches high. In each hill plant half a dozen pumpkin seed three inches apart, and about two inches deep. When the plants come up, dust them of a morning while the dew is on them, with a mixture composed of $\frac{1}{2}$ bushel of plaster, 1 peck of soot, 1 pound of Scotch snuff, and 1 pound of flour of sulphur, to get rid of the striped bug which is apt to do serious damage to the young vines.

After Culture.—Thin out the weakest vines when they come into rough leaf, leaving but three in each hill—keep the weeds from hills with the hoe, and the ground clean and light by working it with the cultivator. Three workings with the latter implement will generally be found sufficient.

HARVESTING RUTA BAGAS.—The following suggestion, says the *Country Gentleman*, which we derive from a newspaper, may be too late for the north, but possibly of value to farmers in the Middle State who are about taking up their ruta bagas: Instead of throwing them when pulled into heaps promiscuously, each man takes two rows, and places the roots as pulled, in regular continuous rows, the roots pointing one way, the tops the other. When topping commences, every root is in position, and quickly handled. The roots as topped, are not thrown down again in heaps, which would render a second handling necessary, but into large baskets to be emptied directly into the cart for the pit or cellar. Here an amount of work equal to handling every root twice, of the many thousands in the field is entirely saved.

REV. MR. HUNTINGTON got off a good thing in the course of his sermon in behalf of the poor of Dover, on Thanksgiving day. He said it was better to lay up treasure in Heaven, where moth and dust do not corrupt, than to be straining every nerve to ship peaches to New York commission men who make no returns. The point was highly appreciated by a number of peach growers, who knew to their sorrow, how fallacious had been their expectations, in the latter particular.—*Delawarean*.

Live Stock Register.



WORKING, CONDITION, SELECTION, AND DRIVING MULES.

WORKING CONDITION OF MULES.—Most persons, when they see a good, fat, slick mule, are apt to exclaim: "What a fine mule there is!" He takes it for granted that because the animal is fat, tall, and heavy, he must be a good work animal. This, however, is no criterion to judge by. A mule, to be in good condition for work, should never be any fatter than what is known as good working condition. One of fourteen and a half hands high, to be in good working condition, should not weigh over nine hundred and fifty pounds. One of fifteen hands high should not weigh over one thousand pounds. If he does, his legs will in a very short time give out, and he will have to go to the hospital. In working a mule with too much flesh, it will produce curbs, spavin, ringbone, or crooked hocks. The muscles and tendons of their small legs are not capable of carrying a heavy weight of body for any length of time. He may not, as I have said before, show his blemishes in lameness, but it is only because he lacks that fine feeling common to the horse.

I have, singular as it may seem, known mules that have been spavined, curbed, and ringboned, and yet have been worked for years without exhibiting lameness.

Avoid spotted, or dappled mules; they are the very poorest animals you can get. They cannot stand hard work, and once they get diseased and begin to lose strength, there is no saving them. The Mexicans call them pintos, or painted mules. We call them calico Arabian or Chickasaws. They have generally bad eyes, which get very sore during the heat and dust of summer, when many of them go blind. Many of the snow-white mules are of the same description, and about as useless. Mules with the white muzzle, or, as some term it, white nor white, and with white rings round the eyes, are also of but little account as work mules. They can stand no hardship of any kind. Government, at least, should not purchase them. In purchasing

mules, you must look well to the age, form, height, eyes, size of bone and muscle, and disposition; for these are of more importance than his color. Get these right and you will have a good animal.

If any gentleman wants to purchase a mule for the saddle, let him get one bred closer after the mare than the jack. They are more docile, handle easier, and are more tractable, and will do what you want with less trouble than the other. If possible, also, get mare mules; they are much more safe and trusty under the saddle, and less liable to get stubborn. They are also better than a horse mule for team purposes. In short, if I were purchasing mules for myself, I would give at least fifteen dollars more for mare mules than I would for horse. They are superior to the horse mule in every way. One reason is, that they possess all their natural faculties, while you deprive the horse of his by altering.

The most disagreeable and unmanageable, and I was going to say useless, animal in the world, is a stud mule. They are no benefit to anybody, and yet they are more troublesome than any other animal. They rarely ever get fat, and are always fretting; and it is next to impossible to keep them from breaking loose and getting at mares. Besides, they are exceedingly dangerous to have amongst horses. They will frequently fly at the horse, like a tiger, and bite, tear, and kick him to pieces. I have known them to shut their eyes, become furious, and dash over both man and beast to get at a mare. It is curious, also, that a white mare seems to have the greatest attraction for them. I have known a stud mule to take a fancy to a white mare, and it seems impossible to keep him away from her. Mules of all kinds, however, seem to have a peculiar fancy for white mares and horses, and when this attachment is once formed, it is almost impossible to separate them. If you want to drive a herd of five hundred mules any distance, turn a white or gray mare in among them for two or three days, and they will become so attached to her that you may turn them out, and they will follow her anywhere. Just let a man lead the mare, and with two men mounted you can manage the whole herd almost as well as if they were in a team. Another way to lead mules is, to put a bell on the mare's neck. The mules will listen for that bell like a lot of school children, and will follow its tinkling with the same instinct.

Another curious thing about the mule is this: You may hitch up to-day for the first time, and he may become sullen and refuse to go a step for you. This may be very provoking, and perhaps excite your temper; but do not let it, for ten chances to one, if you take him out of the harness to-day and put him in again to-morrow, that he will go right

off, and do any thing you want him. It is best always to get a young mule well used to the harness before you try to work him in a team. When you get him so that he is not afraid of the harness, you may consider your mule two-thirds broke.

I have seen it asserted that a team of mules was more easily handled than a team of horses. It is impossible that this can be so, for the reason that you never can make a mule as bridle-wise as a horse. To further prove that this cannot be so, let any reinsman put as many mules together as there are horses in the "band wagon" of a show, or circus, and see what he can do with them. There is not a driver living who can rein them with the same safety that he can a horse, and for the very reason, that whenever the mule finds that he has the advantage of you, he will keep it in spite of all you can do.

HEREFORDS TO THE FRONT.

W. H. Sotham, Chicago, Illinois, writing to the *Prairie Farmer*, thus descants upon the Herefords:

Hon. John Merryman, of Cockeysville, now Treasurer of the State of Maryland, wrote me in May last that he had owned two hundred and nine head of Herefords, one hundred and eighty-one of which he had bred himself. He added: "I claim that they are the most valuable stock for this vicinity, and for the purposes of the South; being hardy, active and better milkers than the Devons, which is the only breed to compare with them for this section, and south of us. They have also another great advantage over Devons—their size. I slaughter several steers each year, and have never had any weight less than sixty pounds of beef for one hundred pounds live weight. At the State Agricultural Society, in September last, my Herefords had three gold medals awarded them, and nine first prizes, including one for best fat steer."

He now writes me: "At our State fair held near the city of Baltimore, during the first week in October, I carried off the prize for best head, not less than ten, belonging to exhibitor. I exhibited two bulls, six cows, eight heifers, and three bull and heifer calves, in all nineteen, against two herds of Devons, (one had forty in it,) three of Alderneys, two of Short Horns and one Ayreshire herd. On the 26th inst, I offered at auction, in the city of Baltimore thirteen head, including three sucking calves. One cow and heifer calf sold to Mr. Robert Henning, Wilmington, North Carolina; ten went to Cambria iron works company, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and a very fine bull calf to Mr. Dillon. The sale left me with about twenty, none of which I desire now to sell except at a price to induce.

"I have implicit faith in Herefords, being better

known, and then appreciated. My imported heifer, now two years old, was considered the animal of the show, notwithstanding there was a Short-horn, a little younger, there, that cost \$2,000."

In January, 1869, I sold to this gentleman twenty-one head of these Herefords, from which this herd originated. They have been distributed through much of the South.

Hon. Wm. D. Bowie, the worthy sire of Gov. Bowie, of Maryland, in 1852, bought a Hereford bull of me, which he put to a herd of pure bred Devon cows. The result was that the calves could not be distinguished from pure Herefords, and thus they grew up. Three years after this I sold him another bull calf of a different family; this bull was used on the half-bloods; the result ran still further into Herefords. In 1860, I sold him another, and I would defy any of those gentlemen called "exquisite" judges to distinguish them from pure Herefords. I saw this herd in 1860, and I think I never saw a better, or a more uniform one of any breed; they had nothing but pasture, and there was not a animal amongst them but what was good beef; not only that, but those cows and heifers, suckling their calves, showed that they were excellent nurses. There was between forty and fifty head in this herd. They could not be exhibited as thorough-breeds, therefore were prohibited from show-yard fame. I was swindled out of the remaining part of my herd by the Long Island sharpers.

CLOVER AS A FERTILIZER.

Mr. Frank Graves of Marcellus-Falls, New York, writing to the *Germantown Telegraph*, on this subject says:

Not only should we bring to our assistance every available stimulant to vegetable growth, but also at the same time that kind should come first which is the cheapest. A great deal has been written about composting, collecting forest leaves, dissolving bones, and saving rubbish generally, all good in a measure and adding their mite to the enriching of the land, but not wholly satisfying the great craving of the soil for food. It is the deduction our leading farmers make from years of experience, that clover is the cheapest manure. A principal item is the cost of applying fertilizers. I set a man at work hauling barnyard manure. He must have a team, wagon and fork. He does a good day's work if he covers an acre. I send a man to the field with a bag of clover-seed on his shoulders, and when night comes he has seeded down ten acres or more. He has added more fertility to the soil than is contained in one hundred loads of common barnyard manure. A not very distant farmer says:

"I cannot afford to put my straw back on my land," so at five dollars a ton his wheat straw goes to the paper-mill and is immediately converted into paper, and he buys clover-seed with the money. Of course he *can* afford to put it back, though the resulting profit would not be near so great as is commonly estimated. It seems to me better to grow clover-seed and keep the straw too.

Clover protects the surface, hence it may be truly called a mulch. A thick mat of clover prevents the escape from the earth of fertilizing properties that would otherwise be wasted. Leave a board on the ground for a few months, and no matter how barren the soil, a profitable amount of fertilizing material will accumulate under the board. Just in this way does the clover plant fetch up barren, worn-out land to a producing state. Possibly as much humus is kept back to the earth in this way as is drawn from the air by the leaves of the plant. Again, clover mellows the soil. Land having a natural tendency to become pasty, heavy and tough may be converted, with a liberal seeding into a mellow, friable seed bed, and when we have got a mellow soil we have reduced the expense of cultivation.

Again a heavy coat of clover keeps down many kinds of weeds that would otherwise spring up abundantly. It heads them off, just as a tobacco plant shading the ground stops effectually any growth beneath its leaves. Finally as fodder it is indispensable. Sheep prefer clover hay to the best of timothy and other fine grasses. Dairymen rank clover high and seed their land accordingly. In fact many farmers here sow nothing else. But then there are acres and acres of land that will not unassisted grow a clover plant two inches high. For such gypsum is the resort, the natural food. We have only to come down with this dust and then leave the rest to nature. The common course here is to seed down liberally and top-dress with gypsum in the spring, mow once; the next year more top-dressing, and either stock lightly or mow again and plow under the after-growth.

DURABLE WOODEN WATER PIPES.—The American Rural Home says that Mr. Root, one of the best farmers of western New York, finds that basswood (ordinarily one of the most perishable of all kinds of wood), is one of the best sorts of timber for underground logs or pipes for conveying water over farms. He claims that basswood soaks full of water and is constantly saturated—a condition well known to favor durability. He has 300 rods of basswood saplings, now laid nine years, and apparently perfectly sound.

The chopping or grinding of grain to be fed to the stocks operates as a saving of at least twenty-five per cent.

ESSAY ON PEANUTS.

As many persons are making inquiry of me regarding the cultivation of peanuts, I think the best way to convey to others what my experience has taught me in Vineland, is to insert a short essay in your paper.

NATURE AND PREPARATION OF SOIL.

The soil should be a sandy loam, not too rich, but capable of yielding a fair crop of corn; for if too rich the tendency of the plant will be to run to vine. Spread broadcast, from twenty-five to thirty-one horse loads of any well-rotted manure worked fine, (vegetable manure generally preferred, though some stable manure will not come amiss) per acre before plowing, then plow four or five inches deep, turning under the manure as evenly as possible; then spread broadcast thirty to fifty bushels of shell lime per acre, harrowing with a light iron tooth harrow, and brush or roll smooth; then mark off the field in three feet squares; have the rows straight, making the marks about two inches deep, or raise a slight hill at the intersection of the marks.

PLANTING.

Shell the nuts carefully, so as to not break the skin, drop three to five kernels in the hill; drop the grains close together, as in cultivating early it is necessary to work as close to the hill as possible, and not injure the plant. Cover one and a half or two inches deep with well pulverized soil. Some writers on the subject recommend five inches, but my experience of three seasons here, has proved that the depth I have mentioned, as a general rule, is the best on my land. A portion of my patch did not come up, (owing to too deep covering,) until the middle of June; though I planted immediately after corn, about the 15th of May. Planting should be done as soon as possible in May, as the peanut needs all the season to mature. The temperature of the soil should be about 60 degrees Fahrenheit, though I have planted when it was much lower.

CULTIVATION.

As soon as the rows can be seen, begin to work the ground around the plants. Use a potato digger or small iron tooth-rake, these tools being much better for the purpose than a hoe, as there is less danger of cutting the plant. Cultivate between the rows with some tool that will throw the dirt slightly toward the hills. I use Knox's Horse Hoe, throwing the earth first to the centre, then reversing the teeth and throwing the earth outward. As the fingers or shoots of the plant spread (which they do in a circular form) I hill up, but do not disturb the shoots, making the hills about four inches high, and at the last hoeing the hills are

fifteen to twenty inches across. The idea advanced by some of covering the blossom with dirt or soil, I found by actual experiment, to be useless. It is true that the shoots were pressed more firmly to the ground, and perhaps caused the small shoot from the blossom to start much quicker, but all the nuts on those hills were smaller than the rest of the crop—there were also more nuts on the hills covered; but as I stated, all smaller at maturity. No grass or weeds should be allowed to grow among the vines, as they are very sensitive on such matters. When the cultivator can no longer be used without disturbing the plants, they must be worked by hand. Cultivating and hoeing twice is generally sufficient.

HARVESTING.

In climates where the growing season is long enough there is no trouble, but here it is necessary to watch the weather, and if the crop is exposed after gathering to the frost, it must be housed without delay, as a slight nipping will cause them to rot before they can dry. If they can be left on the hills after digging for a week, so much the better, but for the last two seasons I have been forced to take up my vines sooner than I wished, for fear of the frost. As soon as the frost kills the vines dig the nuts, using a spading-fork, placing it at one side of the hill and prying out the hill; at the same time take hold of the vine with one hand and lift it, shake off the dirt and turn the vine upside down on the hill, leave as dug for several days if no frost, if frosty, haul in at once and put under cover. Pick off the nuts as soon as possible, for if left on the vines in a moist state, the nuts will heat and rot. Spread thinly on a floor, if possible over a room in which there is a fire kept, and no plastered ceiling. I cure by putting them on the slatted floor of my hop kiln, having a cloth on the slats and a fire in the room below. The hot air passing through, they soon dry, when I put them in coarse bags or in a bin—they keep better in bags.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The nuts must be shelled just before planting, as, if exposed too long to the air, the skin will crack and injure the seed. One of the main points is to start the plants early and keep them growing without check. Careful cultivation and proper manure will do it. My yield last season from twelve hundred hills, was nine bushels of sound nuts; this season from twenty-five hundred hills, but thirteen bushels, of which nine were sound nuts, owing to the unfavorable season. A dry season appears to suit their nature best, after they get a start.

I have seen it stated that in the Southern States the yield varies from thirty to fifty bushels per acre.

Yours truly,
J. H. DOWLER.

NOTE.—The object of plowing shallow is this, the nut will not form until the end of the root strikes the hard ground.—*Vineland Independent*.

THE
MARYLAND FARMER,
 AT \$1.50 PER ANNUM,
 PUBLISHED THE 1ST OF EACH MONTH,
 BY
S. SANDS MILLS & CO.
 No. 145 WEST PRATT STREET,
 Opposite Maltby House,
BALTIMORE.

S. SANDS MILLS, }
 E. WHITMAN, } **Publishers.**

BALTIMORE, JANUARY 1, 1872.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:

\$1.50 per annum, in advance—6 copies for \$7.50—10 copies
 \$12.00.

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Where single copies are now taken we would request the subscriber to act as agent or secure the services of the Postmaster or some competent person to act for us. Where farmers club together to the number of five and upwards, the magazine will be furnished at \$1 per annum for each subscription. Will our friends serve us?

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J. J. H. Gregory, Seedsman.—We refer our readers to the advertisement of Mr. J. J. H. Gregory, Marblehead, Mass., who is one of the largest and experienced seed-growers in the country. His Annual Catalogue, containing many engravings, will be sent free to all making application.

For the Maryland Farmer.

WINTERING ANIMALS.

In traveling over the country, I observe that the practice is still common to feed horses, cattle, and sheep out in the field and in open yards, that is, without shelter, and many still feed stalks and hay on the ground at all times.

On one occasion I halted and remarked to a hireling who was foddering on the ground quite a large stock of cattle with hay from a stack, that the cattle wasted much of the fodder where the ground was soft and wet, as it was at that time.

"O, yes," he replied, "they tramp more than half of it into the mud such times as this, and never eat it."

I said, then—

"I suppose you give them enough, more than you do when the ground is dry or frozen, to make up for the waste."

"No," he replied, "I generally feed them about the same in all weather."

I asked him if animals kept thus were usually very fat in the spring.

"Why, no; of course they are not. We are not trying to fatten; if we can only get them through till grass comes, we are all right."

"You mean if you can keep them alive?"

"Yes, and and not let them get too much down."

"Do you think there is any profit in keeping animals thus?" I asked.

"Well, no; but farmers here don't expect profit out of keeping cattle in winter. They use up the fodder and some hay, but we don't feed much hay; we make them live mostly on fodder and straw."

"You don't think that stock so kept gain any?" I asked.

"Gain! no. They all fall off, and some get very poor by spring, and last winter we lost three."

"You do not mean that you lost three from poverty?" I asked.

"Yes, I suppose it was poverty, because they were weak. They got so that if they slipped they would fall down, and they couldn't get up. Then, you know, if there was nobody there, the others would soon 'hook 'em' to death."

Having satisfied myself that a conclusion arrived at more than forty years since, was fully sustained by the young man's answers to my interrogations, viz, that there was great loss in keeping stock thus, I drove on without further comment, other than that I thought it would pay to feed in stables, to which he made some inaudible reply as I drove away.

Designing farm barns and stables having been, for years, the most important branch of my profes-

sion, hence I naturally observe the character of all that I see, and the necessity for them in districts where they are wanting.

I spent a winter in the grazing district of Southwestern Virginia two years since, and there had a better opportunity than I had previously enjoyed of observing the effect of what we would here call a mild winter, on cattle, sheep, and horses, out of doors.

I had twenty years experience in feeding such animals within doors and out in Eastern New York and New England, hence could compare practically the effects of the winter in that latitude with that of Virginia, and I was forced to the conclusion that the animals I have mentioned suffer more in winter, exposed to all storms, in Virginia, than they do in New York and New England. The storms in Virginia were, in the main, cold rain, mixed with sleet or hail, keeping the cattle wet a large portion of the time, with occasionally a snow of from one to six inches, which rarely laid on the ground more than a few days at a time, and the ground was muddy, and remained so nearly all the winter.

I went out among a number of lots of cattle during storms to observe the effect, and I found a large proportion of them shivering, even at midday.

I often thought, whilst on this tour of observation, of what a Pennsylvania farmer once told me. He said that he would give an ounce of gold for every ounce of butter made from, or fat made in an animal whilst it shivered.

I concluded, from the effect of the cold storms on the cattle that I saw, that he was very safe in making so liberal an offer. The animals of every description were thin, and apparently losing condition daily.

In fact, I visited farms and examined stock in seven different counties, and only saw two lots of cattle stabled, and these were in good, thriving condition, though the food consumed and wasted by these stabled animals was not more than 50 per cent. of the quantity used by the same number of animals without shelter and fed on the ground.

I made particular inquiry of the owners of animals, as to how the condition of their stock in the spring compared with what it was in the autumn previous, and all admitted that the live weight was, no doubt, from 10 to 20 per cent. less in the spring.

I found a number of farmers who were said, by their neighbors, to have *hides* and *hay* to sell every spring. I saw several herds, among which were animals that, if they survived the winter, their hides would be their chief value in the spring; but in no instance did I see a surplus of hay. But in numerous instances I saw corn fodder enough wasted to have wintered all the stock on the farm

well without any hay, had it been housed and cut and steamed and fed in stables, as the New York, New England, and Pennsylvania farmer would have economized it.

I observed that sheep ranging the pastures, in which manner they were all kept, were thin; and I was told that they would eat but little hay. I went and examined the surface where they were grazing, and found that they were gnawing the crowns of the grass plants out in many instances. There was very little herbage, the previous autumn having been excessively dry. I scarcely need state what was the condition of pastures thus treated the following season.

The colts wintered in this manner were generally small, humped or high-backed, steep-rumped, and low-headed. After a careful observation of the effects of wintering animals in that latitude, as I have described, I arrived at this conclusion: that were these grazers to sell one-fourth of their acres at the price at which they could be sold, and invest the entire proceeds of such sale in economically constructed and spacious farm barns and stables, in which to store all their products and house their animals, and they would feed judiciously, the net annual proceeds of the reduced farm, with the buildings, would be 30 to 50 per cent. more than that they were realizing from the whole, to say nothing of the pleasure arising from the more profitable system. I am satisfied that the state of things that I have described is not confined to that locality only, but that it prevails to a lamentable extent even in high latitudes.

Stock owners, let me entreat you, for your own pecuniary interest, if not for humanity sake, not to let the current winter pass unimproved by you in making preparations, by some means or other, by which every animal you own in the winter of '72 and '73, shall have a good, comfortable shelter, and plenty to eat.

Let me also remind you that *stables*, to be profitable, must be kept cleanly, and be well ventilated, and that when properly managed, the manure will be removed from them at least twice in 24 hours, and not a drop of rain will be allowed to fall on it until it is spread on the surface of the land. The longer it there remains, the greater will be the profit derived from it.

Let me say, in conclusion, what few farmers have yet learned, viz., that they cannot afford to build any structure they may require, not even a kennel or a sty, without calling to their aid the best architect obtainable, as, in everything else, "the best is generally the cheapest." This is particularly true in employing an architect, as they all charge about the same rates, which are $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the

cost of the building for which plans are furnished, for full plans and specifications.

He must be a great novice, if he has had proper instruction and experience, if he cannot save much more than that amount in economizing space and materials, and in adapting the respective parts of the structure to their legitimate uses, and in the selection of materials for their respective uses.

Many men act as though they thought all men were born architects; but few, however, claim they are born good mechanics, and they will generally admit that a little experience is necessary to constitute them such; but anybody can be a farmer or an architect, yet the list of either are none too good.

Very respectfully,

J. WILKINSON,

Rural Architect, etc., Baltimore, Md.

THE WHEAT CROP---CAUSE OF FAILURE.

"The experience of many years has led me to the conclusion that the deterioration of the wheat crop is mainly attributable to the improper and untimely use of barn-yard manure. In our practice the clover sod is turned down and planted with corn. The ground is again plowed in the spring, and sowed with oats, and upon the stubble of this all the barn-yard manure is put; then plowed again, and sowed with wheat. This delicate plant is thus subjected to the rawness and grossness of barn-yard food, with all its germs of flies, worms, lice and bugs—seemingly a sufficient cause of the unsuccessful growth of a grain so pure and delicate as wheat. Corn is the hog of plants, and will devour food of any quality and thrive upon it. Here, then, upon the sod to be plowed for corn, is the place for barn-yard manure. Bury it deep, and when the corn is cut off, break the stubble even with the ground during the winter. In the spring harrow the ground well, sow your oats upon it, and roll it. You will thus keep your manure where you put it, and not subject the oat crop to being thrown down by it. When this crop is removed, bring your manure to the surface by deep plowing and thorough tillage. The barn-yard manure having thus received proper preparation, is a fit food for the wheat plant."

The above is from a letter written by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Judge Watts, to the *Rural Messenger*. We agree with his views as to the condition to which manure should be brought for the use of the wheat crop, but farmers in Western New York would prefer composting it during the summer and applying it as a top-dressing just previous to sowing. We fear very little of the manure would find its way into the wheat plant if applied as the Commissioner advises.—*Am. Rural Home*,

For the Maryland Farmer.

SUNDRIES:

And Chips from a Work Shop.

Number One.

I believe with Patuxent Planter (the able author of "Notes and Commentaries") and several other of your esteemed correspondents, that farmers should more generally communicate the items of individual experience, to their recognized organ.

I say I believe this; but I have been kept back by a want of confidence in myself: duty on one side, pushing on, and diffidence on the other, holding back, which shall conquer? I will make a compromise, and send you a few items occasionally if you will put my "Sundries" away down on the last page, as far away from "Patuxent Planter" (and your other able correspondents in the van) as possible, right next to the advertisements and label them, "These Sundries are chips from the workshop of a rough old farmer, who wants to impart a few items of his experience, but hardly knows how," and if you will excuse plain talk and can decipher my hieroglyphics, and will correct bad grammar and excuse mistakes, in a new name on the list, perhaps my lantern will throw a little light on the path of the farmer, as he toils in his arduous field of duty. We ought to help one another, and I will set the example, in hopes of bringing out those better qualified than myself, to relate experience, or impart instruction.

About Cob in the Meal.

In the first place, I find that my experience differs from that of other farmers, in many things; by putting all these different experiences together, perhaps we can get at the truth, and unless these experiences are gathered up and sent to the press, we shall be forever in the dark.

I find in the December number of the *Maryland Farmer*, p. 375, this item:—

"I think corn and cob meal, a valuable substitute for sawdust. I have heard a great many 'book farmers' argue in favor of grinding up the cobs with the corn, but after trying it, they invariably gave up the idea that there was any food in the cob. If any one has a desire to try the experiment, let him grind the cob alone, and see if he can induce any of his stock to eat it. That will convince him that cobs, as food, are entirely worthless."

This is not my experience, and if the writer of that article had taken dinner with me, a day or two ago, I think I could have converted him by the sweetness, tenderness, firmness and fatness, of a piece of beef, I fattened on this "valuable substitute for sawdust." It has proved a very valuable substitute with me. Now for the testimony in regard to the *nutriment* in the cob.

My neighbor, the doctor, informs me that he was told, by one of the parties who did it, of the winning of cattle, exclusively upon corn cobs. An-

other neighbor, an economical, practical man, (who would furnish the "Joodge" with some ideas by his Dunkism, I will admit,) is in the habit of scalding his cobs, and feeding them to his cattle. Another neighbor, bruises the cobs, boils them, puts a little salt and meal on them, and feeds them that way. I have fed them to cattle myself, on a small, a very small scale, but my cattle are most always very dainty; they do not take after me. I believe they would starve, on some farmer's bill of fare, particularly those whose principal item is an open field, a northwest wind and a straw stack, with a change occasionally to an open barn yard, (plenty of air is a *healthy* thing, but how would they like it themselves?) a pile of straw, or swamp hay and an easterly rain storm.

The theory of this matter would be, that as all the atoms of nutrition for the perfection of the grain corn, pass through the cob, its specific office is, as a *medium*, and not a *depository* of nutrition, and where the office has been imperfectly performed, as in what we term soft, or immature corn, a large portion of the nutritious matter designed for the grain, remains in the cob, and we find this to be true, in experience; but where the corn has been thoroughly ripened, only a small portion would remain in the cob, in an insoluble and unassimilable form, accompanied by so much fibre (wood), as to render its utilization, in most cases, unprofitable; but there is some nutriment in the cob. But cobs have another action in the stomach, a mechanical one. A neighbor of mine once lost an ox, in plowing time. He gave him, when he was warm from work, a feeding of corn meal, and after his death, he was opened, and the meal found in a lump, in an undigested mass. The concentrated character of the feed, in the animal's heated condition, had prevented its proper dissolution in the stomach, and the proper action of the solvents upon it.

Flour made from wheat and unsifted, is considered more nutritious, or rather more wholesome than the bolted article, although there is but a small percentage of nutriment in the bran proper.

Last year I had an old cow to fatten; I fed her soft corn, and then "nubbing," that is sound, but short corn; she did not do well; then I sent my nubbing to the mill, had them ground, and then she fattened. This year my experience was a repetition of last year's, and my beef fattened on corn and cob meal was very fine.

Upon examination of the *feces* of animals (particularly old cattle,) that have been fed on whole corn, it will be found that they pass a large a very large portion of whole and cracked grain.

"Hogs git that," says one.

"Chickens eat it," says another.

Exactly; it is not lost entirely; but what hogs and chickens get, the animals don't get, and I consider it bad practice to feed whole corn to neat cattle. I think it will pay toll to have it ground; and if I was a "high" farmer, I would, by all means, steam it before feeding, only I don't practice that. I do not think it follows, that because cattle refuse to eat an article, there is no nutriment in it; my horses have refused corn and rye chop. We must cater not only to the stomachs but the palates of our animals. Against the use of cob in the meal, I have seen it alleged that the coarse, flinty particles, are apt to injure the intestines of the animals; it appears reasonable to think it would hurt old stock, if any, but I am not aware of any such injury in my practice.

Maryland State Agricultural Society.

This body is doing good work; let every farmer in Maryland, put his strong arms under it, and carry it on through a glorious career, to imperishable fame. I wonder if that honorable body will pardon a few suggestions from "Sundries?"

It should devote itself thoroughly and earnestly to the organization of farmers; in counties, by a county agricultural society, and all these to rally around the State society, with the practical support of so many giant arms, excited for self protection. Other arts and industries, have their organizations and their agents or lobby, to secure laws for their benefit. Could not the State Society call a convention of the farmers of the State, to talk over their business, suggest such laws as are demanded by the agricultural interest, and appoint an agent, (paid, of course,) to watch that interest? I see that you have been doing good service, towards getting a Dog Law for Maryland; does the State Society fall in line and second your efforts? All rural Maryland is crying out for such a measure. Does the State Society take up the cry, and next to the press, as the exponent of agricultural sentiment, thunder it into the ears of authority, as the shout of our yeomanry? Then there is the fence question, a matter of so much importance, that the Department of Agriculture, at Washington, has made it the subject of a special circular, to its correspondents. We need additional legislation upon this matter, to systemize it, and prevent the law suits and damage cases, which are constantly arising in consequence of the absence of definitive statutory provisions. Has the State Society considered this matter? It looks small perhaps, to talk about fences; it is not small to raise a crop and have it destroyed by cattle, and find the law, or absence of law, inadequate for protection. The just solution of this question, would highly promote

the cause of peace and brotherly love, in the rural districts.

Has the State Society considered the fertilizer question; that looms up in grand proportions, with millions of dollars, to give it significance? What is the decision of the State Society about it? For when I see the last law constantly disregarded, I cannot think the question settled, so far as the pocket of the farmer is interested, in the terms of the settlement.

There is the labor question also for discussion: "Now don't say anything about that matter, there's votes in that thing, and you know the politicians attend to all that." So much more are farmers to blame, for allowing politics to touch it; it is an independent question, properly considered and should be dealt with, upon a basis of truth, calmness and justice, like any other subject effecting our interests and not be decided amid the noises of a mob, or the white heat of a partisan struggle. But perhaps we have not got far enough ahead for that matter; it may be, but in the meantime, *labor* has got far enough ahead, to dictate its terms to the farmer, and is reaping the fruits of its organization, while he is cashing up. This question claims our consideration, for upon its just solution, hangs much of the prosperity of the farmer.

Is it not possible to get together the representatives of Maryland Agriculture, to talk over these things in a spirit of wisdom and truth?

ICE HOUSES.—This being the season for storing ice, we would call attention to what is known as the "Steven's plan" for erecting a cheap house and storing ice, from *Hall's Journal of Health* for December:

"For one family, make a house twelve feet each way, by setting twelve posts in the ground, three on a side; board it up, eight feet high, on the inside, so that the weight of the ice shall not press the boards outward; dig out the dirt inside, six inches deep, and lay down twelve inches of sawdust; pack the ice in a pile nine feet each way, filling the space of eighteen inches between the ice and the boards with sawdust or tan bark, with the same thickness on top; make an old fashioned board roof, leaving the space above the ice open for ventilation. Have a small entrance on the north side of the roof.

"If the ice house be located on the north side of a hill, and a small stream of water introduced slowly through the roof, on a very cold day, so as to make its way between the pieces of ice, the whole mass will freeze solid; or a pile of snow could thus be made into solid ice, and would last from one winter to another."

For the Maryland Farmer.

TO YOUNG FARMERS.—No. 1.

In what I shall say in this first communication, my remarks will be adapted mostly to *young farmers*, or new beginners; that we may progress, step by step, to some degree of improvement, as experience and observation may point out the way and means; and it is my hope, hereafter, to come to your readers frequently in this social way, with such hints and instructions as may be in my power to afford. In the first place, young men, do no more than you can do well, and properly. Let elevation of character, improvement of intellect and general usefulness, as much as gain of riches, be the motives of action.

Start with a *small farm*, with no more land than can be thoroughly tilled and managed—a few acres well cultivated are better than many, just skimmed over. Besides, small farms are better for the whole community, on general principles; as they make more compact and sociable neighborhoods, and will secure better roads, schools and churches, besides encouraging better mechanic shops near by—thus, tools can be quickly repaired.

Plow deep and fine, that the soil may be well pulverized to a good depth, in order that the roots of all crops and trees, may be able easily and richly to appropriate all the plant-food from the ground which they need for thrifty growth. Deep plowing also does very much to prevent the bad effects of drouth, by allowing the moisture to rise from below when the ground becomes dry and warm on the surface; it is alike beneficial in cases of excess of rain, by allowing the surplus water more readily to sink out of the way. Then plow deep, as well into the soil, for your physical crops, as into science and knowledge for mental support and improvement.

To effect the same ends still better, and to have your lands warm, dry and porous, *drain* them well, with surface drains where that will answer, and with under drains where they are needed; the improvement in yield, as well of quality as in quantity, will pay all of the expense in a very short time, besides making the farm more healthy for both plants and human occupants; while often, in many localities, these under-drains furnish abundance of good stock water, where none was known before; and then it is more pleasant tilling the soil. Orchards, particularly, are greatly benefitted by deep, thorough drainage, both in the health of the trees, and the improved size and flavor of the fruit.

The young farmer should consider well and distinctly what he wants to do; ascertain what his land and location are best adapted to; and where those things are settled, seek the best information

and counsel within his reach. And above all he should learn to *observe every thing* connected with his business—with the growth of plants or animals—observe nature and results—acquire the habit of noticing things—events and accidents, and from all learn lessons of usefulness for yearly application. A vast number of useful things have been learned by farmers, when they least expected it, merely from accidentally *noticing* some event, or indication, or unusual results; quite a chapter of such results of accidents could be called to mind, and in a future communication will be given, from the experience of others and myself. Then great benefit, as well as a pleasurable past-time will be found in keeping *accounts* careful and systematic, with everything on the farm, as faithfully as the merchant keeps accounts—debt and credit with every customer; so the farmer should keep a careful account with every field, crop, animal and other subject of value, on the farm—charging each with every thing which it costs—in labor, money, feed, seed or manure—and credit it with all it produces or returns, whether sold or consumed at home. No part of my own farming operations ever afforded so much of pleasure, for the time it took, as this keeping careful and regular accounts with every thing; it enabled me to know, with certainty what was made or lost—whether the farm was paying—and what branch of the business paid the best, by which future operations were guided.

Then, at the approach of cold, stormy weather, all animals should be *comfortably sheltered*, and liberally fed. The less amount of feed necessary to keep animals, which are warmly sheltered, will in a very short time, more than pay for doing it, to say nothing of the humanity and comfort of it—which is really the highest consideration; while they will come out in the spring stronger and more healthy; of course, all farmers know this, when they think; but too many of them are so apt to forget it. And in this connection, it may be remarked, that many farmers seem to think they will get rich by leaving plows, harrows and larger implements scattered about in the fields and yards, to rust and rot; the waste and loss in this manner, is greater than the expense of well housing them, oiling them, and thus keeping them in order for next season's work; and not lose the best working days in repairing or running after new ones. And for the same reason that tools should be kept in order and free from rust, the land should be kept in good condition and free from weeds; it is much easier to keep them down and destroy them when they are young, than when they have grown stiff and tall; it is easier to kill a kitten than a catamount.

In the next number we will try and have something a little more sociable and nearer to tangible results—meantime, search out, young friends, what faults there are in this one.

LAND MARK.

Washington, Dec. 6, 1871.

"DOWN THE EASTERN SHORE."

BAYARD TAYLOR'S OPINION.

From a recent number of *Harper's Weekly*, we copy the following interesting extract from Bayard Taylor's account of his trip through Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland. It will be read with interest by our Eastern Shore friends, coming as it does from so distinguished an author and extensive traveler, both in this country and Europe. Mr. Taylor seems to have been well pleased with all he saw, and says:

"Easton, which we reached early in the forenoon, is the largest town on the Eastern Shore, actually containing 2000 inhabitants, although all the others *claim* to have that number. It is a bright, clean, cheerful place, still keeping its old time mansions and gardens, but keeping them in good condition. The dilapidation of the past is hardly seen, and one feels a fresher breeze of the present while driving through the busy, shaded streets. Grand old trees, singly or in groups, stud the surrounding landscape; fine old farm houses (I was about to say 'halls' and 'manors') are visible in the distance; and a drive of two miles to the north brings you to the blue inlets and bays of Miles River, and the quiet, pastoral beauty of their shores.

A number of gentlemen joined our party for the further trip to Oxford, ten miles distant. The wheat and corn fields, the tall woods of pine, and white oak, and the hollows grown with persimmon and sweet-gum flew past, and the great bay six miles broad, opened before us, its capes and islands hiding the Chesapeake beyond. The train halted at the beach, where winds and waves invited to a bath; but those of us who plunged into the tepid tide were so sharply stung by sea-nettles that we came out again in no very comfortable plight.—Turning towards Oxford, I first saw, as I supposed, a ruined abbey—walls, buttresses, and pointed windows of gray stone—on a knoll beside the water. But it was simply an unfinished church, commenced on too ambitious a scale, and now more picturesque in its ruin than it ever could have been if completed. Oxford, two hundred years old or more, has, I should guess, one inhabitant for each year of its age. It is a dream of another continent. Before one house there is a grapevine a foot in diameter, brought from Guernsey, perhaps in Charles II's time; a large English walnut tree grows on the beach, and Scotch thistle thrusts its yellow blossom through old garden palings, and the fig-tree has almost become a wild bush. Another plant grows there, of which the inhabitants unconsciously eat; in Oxford it is always afternoon. Why, the half hour we passed in loitering through its silent streets was equal to a night's sleep! I know not what heraldic phantoms hover over the place and soothe the life-long slumber of the inhabitants, but they must be pleasant, for the people are apparently as happy as they are indolent. To me Oxford was a surprise and a charm. I shall never think of the place but as a fortunate haven of escape from the worry of our American life.

Afterward, at another place, when a bright young lady said to me, "We are all poor now—we have lost our labor," I answered, "But you have so

many luxuries for nothing; the finest fish, crabs and oysters at your door; canvas-back, red head, and other ducks in the season; fruit, wild as well as cultivated, sailing, bathing, and easy communication with the world." There is no farm in Talbot county, I am told, more than five miles from navigable water. The whole country is penetrated, like the coast of Norway, with broad, winding fiords of the Chesapeake. The winters are just severe enough to fill the ice-house—rarely below eighteen degrees—and the fig and pomegranate flourish in the open air. The climate is healthy, in spite of malarious rumors, for the large frames, fresh color, and apparent vigor of the people are the best testimony.

Our visit was too brief for more than a superficial acquaintance with the present feelings of the old residents. All of them protested to me that they had no prejudice against immigration, and some confessed that the large estates were now an evil. The large, irregular peninsula between Eastern and Choptank bays has long been divided into smaller farms, and has flourished in consequence; but near Easton there is still one estate which produces 30,000 bushels of wheat. Marl and muck are at hand for manuring, and the soil, which is only sandy in occasional belts, responds gratefully to every attention which it receives. From all I could observe or hear, I think it probable that the old prejudices—which were greatly dependent on the isolation, not only of the whole peninsula, but of its different districts—are beginning to yield. Some of the elderly gentlemen seemed to have been shut up in the palace of the Sleeping Beauty for a hundred years, so strangely did their views of life hint of a remote past (as an instance, the establishment by law of different costumes for different classes of society!), but many of the younger men have awakened to the fact that the world has changed, and their duties have changed with it.

The Eastern Shore has these advantages over Virginia—that the soil has been only discouraged, not exhausted; that the new order of things is not new enough (for this part of Delaware has been practically free for fifty years) to be angrily resisted; and that its future prosperity depends on the markets of Philadelphia, New York and Boston. It is one of the most admirable fruit growing regions in the world, Southern New Jersey, which lies opposite to it has a much less favorable soil; the rich levels of Lombardy have not a more auspicious climate. The means of transportation by the Delaware Railroad are direct and rapid. Fruit delivered at Dover in the afternoon reaches New York by daylight next morning, in freight cars specially constructed for ventilation and smooth running. The four branches to the Chesapeake will soon demonstrate to the old Maryland families the profits of this special culture on small farms, will bind them by interest to the section with which they are geographically connected, and gradually reconcile them to the inevitable change in their fortunes. Transmitted ideas are always the most stubbornly held. Even if a community, after a while, discovers that it is nearly alone in holding them, that very circumstance is accepted as an honorable distinction. I heartily sympathize with an affectionate regard for the past, both of families and communities; but nothing can be more fatal than to set the standard of life behind instead of before us.

The development of the Eastern Shore, like that of Virginia, and I suspect, the entire South, depends on the young men, of course, yet it is virtually in the hands of the women. If the latter could see that their views of gentility are rather those which the early settlers brought with them two centuries ago than those of even aristocratic Europe at the present day, they would not discourage necessary, honest, manly labor in the men. Their own time would be spent in some beneficent form of activity instead of vain lamentations for a vanished glory. They are quick, naturally intelligent, and possess many admirable instincts; and perhaps they are not aware of the power which they collectively possess in fixing the governing ideas of their own society. During the war they exercised their will to the utmost without needing their ballot; there could be no better evidence of the genuine, intrinsic influence which women possesses over man. But when I think of *noblesse*, my thoughts involuntary turn to a princess of an ancient line who broiled a beefsteak for me when I was hungry, and to a most accomplished and refined baroness who, in days of necessity, the washing did for herself and children. It is the very quality of a noble character that it can not be degraded by any necessary action. Manual labor, *per se*, is not agreeable; we all know that, but we might as well socially disqualify a family for having dyspepsia as for the labor that comes of duty.

It was easier, we found, to arrive at Easton than to leave. We were tempted by the offer of a terrapin supper, a bridal reception and more private hospitality than we were individuals to accept; but the schedule of our special train was laid in advance, and we were compelled to adhere to it."

A PETITION IN FAVOR OF A GENERAL DOG LAW.

The following memorial, to be presented to the next Legislature for its consideration, has been prepared by a gentleman of Howard county, Md. It is to be hoped that our law-makers will give it their earnest consideration, and enact such laws as will protect our people from the enormous losses that have been sustained, and to save an important branch of industry from ruin.

To the Honorable, the Legislature of Maryland:

Your petitioner, following the commendable precedents of individual petition in behalf of the public good, respectfully desires to represent to your Honorable Body that, after years of discussion of the subject in clubs and conventions, and through the press devoted to the advancement of rural prosperity, the enlightened agricultural element of Maryland has become convinced of the necessity of a stringent general law for all the State, having for its object the prevention of the depredations of dogs upon sheep, and the reimbursement of sheep-raisers on account of losses therefrom.

That the unanimity of this conclusion especially commends the measure to your Honorable Body; for, notwithstanding the liberality of the agricultural press in opening its columns to the free discussion of the questions, and notwithstanding the many thorough and earnest demands for the measure which have been published, not one appeal from this conclusion has thus far been received.

That all portions of our State are adapted, in a greater or less degree, to sheep and wool raising, which are now conducted to a limited extent only in consequence of the depredations above mentioned, which sometimes amount to the almost complete loss of entire flocks in a single night.

That most of the waste and untilled lands of the State could profitably be devoted to sheep husbandry, which are now left unoccupied in consequence of the increased and unremunerative cost of cultivation and the danger apprehended from the depredations alluded to.

That the necessity now felt by the agricultural community of Maryland was experienced by the agricultural communities of other States, was met by laws designed to check the evil complained of, and from the operation of which laws they now enjoy comparative immunity from the greatest obstacle to sheep husbandry, viz., the depredations of dogs.

That the necessity of a diversity of agricultural operations, the peculiar adaptability of the South to sheep and wool production, the reports of immense losses which have been forwarded to the Department of Agriculture at Washington from nearly every Southern State, and the pressure of the agricultural interest of those and other States, have induced the Department in its publications to suggest to Congress the expediency of a general dog law for all the States: your Honorable Body is competent to judge how much more preferable State action would be in the premises.

That all other domestic animals kept for profit are made a source of State revenue by taxation, and your petitioner respectfully represents that upon no article would taxation be felt less onerous in the rural districts, where the burden of taxation is especially grievous.

That from the record of cost and losses on file in the Department of Agriculture, it has been estimated that fifty millions of dollars are annually required to feed the dogs of the country, and that the direct loss from their depredations on sheep, excluding other losses to men and cattle by madness, from 1840 to 1880, will amount to seventy-five millions of dollars, excluding the enormous indirect loss to the commercial and industrial interests of the country; and to this cost and these losses Maryland has invariably contributed her proportionate share, the absence of statistics preventing your petitioner from furnishing even an approximate estimate.

That it is estimated that there are one hundred and fifty thousand dogs in the State of Maryland: a tax of two dollars—the amount usually conceded to be the proper one—upon each dog, would not only be a source of considerable revenue, netting the State some two hundred thousand dollars annually, and one lightly felt as a burden upon the people, but beneficial, also, in its prohibitive tendencies.

That the ravages in city and country of the terrible disease, hydrophobia, both upon man and beast, appeal to authority with an imploring voice, to prevent its effects by a destruction of the cause to the extent of expediency, and as the large number of dogs and the consequent hunger, persecution, and ungratified animal desire, are authoritatively considered destructive of the conditions upon which the good health of the animal depends, thus superinducing the dreadful malady, motives of humanity and sanitary and political significance, join with the self-interest of the farmer in requesting your Honorable Body to drive out this incubus of a great industry, and relieve from this weight upon its energies the bone and sinews of the agricultural arm.

That, as valuable flocks have been seriously injured on their approach to city markets, and as the canine population of cities is especially destructive to the flocks of adjacent rural districts, your petitioner respectfully suggests, should your Honorable Body see proper to establish the measure proposed, that cities be not exempt from the operation of the tax, unless a similar one be imposed by the municipal authorities.

Your petitioner believes that his memorial will rest for the acceptance of your Honorable Body upon its own intrinsic merits, and will not be considered valueless on account of the appearance of a single signature, however humble, or of the manner of its presentation. Farmers, as a class, have no agents to procure supporters of their claims or to watch their interests. If they had, and time were permitted, the memorial thus feebly presented would come before your Honorable Body backed by the signature of every farmer in Maryland.

In the confidence that the agricultural interest, upon whose excellence and strength as a corner-stone, depend the prosperity of all other industries which, with that, form the fair proportions of the social edifice, will be consulted in the measure submitted, your petitioner will ever pray that hereafter, as now and heretofore, your Honorable Body will be proudly conspicuous for its wisdom, its integrity, and its zealous devotion to the public good.

Most respectfully,

* * * *

Horticultural.

HOW THEY GROW PEACHES ON THE DELAWARE PENINSULA.

A Committee appointed by one of the South Jersey Agricultural Societies, after visiting Delaware, made the following report :

The trees are set 20, 24, and 30 feet apart; the latter distance not being found too great when the orchard has been five years planted. He found it a difficult matter to drive in an open wagon between the rows when the latter were 20 and 24 feet apart, although the trees were only four or five years old. The trees covered a space of 20 feet in diameter, and average 15 feet more in height.

He found evidence that the curculio had been at work among the fruit, although not many peaches had fallen to the ground. It is the prevalent opinion among Delaware growers, that plowing and constantly stirring the soil among the trees, has a tendency to keep the curculio within bounds.

Successful peach growers do a great deal of work among their peach trees. In the early part of the season they thoroughly plow the orchard, then harrow it, afterwards cultivate both ways, and then, if any space around the tree is not touched by the cultivator, it is thoroughly worked with hoes to loosen the soil and eradicate weeds. This process is continued into July. Their cultivators are on a large scale, reaching nearly half way across from row to row, and drawn by a pair of horses or mules. Some of the orchards he visited were 150 acres in extent.

Some of the most intelligent and successful growers never cut back the young growth of wood, as many do in this region. Indeed, Dr. G. returned thoroughly convinced by what he saw and heard that the practice of shortening in the branches is not to be recommended; that it tends to unproductiveness and to the formation of a dense, unyielding, close head, which increases the difficulty of gathering the fruit. Summer pruning, or, indeed, any pruning of the peach tree, is confined, among Delaware growers, to cutting back or entirely removing a few of the lower branches which may be in the way, and thinning out the center of the top in order to let in light and air.

The borers do some little damage to the trees, and are hunted once a year, and that in the fall. It is the practice to put the land intended for an orchard into a proper condition of fertility before planting the trees; if this is not done, manure is applied afterwards. Diverse opinions and practices prevail as to the necessity of applying fertilizers after the orchard has come into bearing. But one

fact may be regarded as certain, viz., all successful peach growers plough, drag, and cultivate their orchards thoroughly, and no grass or weeds are allowed to grow among the trees.

The varieties planted are, Hale's Early, Troth's Early, Early York, Stump the World, Crawford's Early, Oldmixon, and Crawford's late. A few other sorts might be mentioned, but they are not extensively planted.

Hale's Early has proved a failure thus far with them, on account of its liability to decay before it can be brought to market.

Upon the whole, Dr. G. is of opinion that Vine-landers who have farms of 40 acres and upwards should be able to compete with Delaware growers in peach raising. They should plant at least ten acres. The conditions of success, so far as these depend upon human effort, seem to be—

1. Thoroughly to clear and enrich the soil.
2. To plant the trees from 25 to 30 feet apart.
3. *Not to trim the trees*, but to train them so that the plough and cultivator can run close to the tree.
4. Corn and potatoes can be raised in the orchard for the first three years with benefit to the trees, provided fertilizers are applied.
5. After the third year plant nothing, but cultivate thoroughly.

DWARF PEAR TREES.

The testimony of Southern growers seems to be uniformly in their favor, notwithstanding the efforts of some writers to run them down and pronounce them a failure. Sagacious cultivators, however, plant the trees low, so that the union of pear and quince stocks shall be a couple of inches below the surface of the ground. In this way they all in time take root from the pear stock, and become virtually permanent standard trees. Their growth then becomes stronger and more thrifty, and uniformly growing more productive yearly. Their advantage over large standard trees is that they make an early growth and quick fruiting, throwing the tree almost into immediate bearing. The following varieties have all done well on the quince stocks in the Middle and Southern States: Duchesse d'Angouleme, Louise Bonne de Jersey, Vicar of Wakefield, Beurre d'Anjou, Howell.

GRAFTING QUINCE TREES ON PEAR STOCKS.—A skillful horticulturist of Delaware County, Pa., informs *The Practical Farmer* that, having some pear trees which produced only cracked fruit, he grafted on them the common quince, and has those latter of very fine quality, perfectly smooth, and of large size. Are there any others that have tried the same plan?

The Poultry House.

HOW TO RAISE TURKEYS.

A correspondent of an exchange gives the following on raising turkeys: The bronze turkey is a great improvement over the common turkey. The cocks weigh at maturity forty pounds, and hens twenty-two pounds. Hens in their second year are the best for breeding. I prefer using a young tom, as old ones are so heavy they are apt to skin the backs of the hens. When the turkeys are about to lay, place a few old barrels on their sides and make nests of them; put in a few nest eggs and partly cover the entrance with brush to make it private. I remove the eggs every evening, and when the hen wishes to set; fix a good nest by putting in some ashes and fresh hay on it, and give her about seventeen eggs. The young ones require no food the first day after they are hatched. The best food for them is curd, with young onion tops chopped fine and mixed with it. I generally give them hard boiled eggs the first few days. They require feeding little and often, every two hours if possible; after they are a week old they can have some raked corn and oats and wheat grits. In fact, this mode of feeding is just right for all kinds of young poultry. Do not fail to give fresh cool water two or three times a day; milk is good for an occasional drink. If they have any lice on them, rub on some dry flour of sulphur and they will soon be free from them.

When the turkeys are hatched, I put them in a coop and have a yard around it, which is made by nailing four boards together. This makes a little fence to keep the young turkeys from straying; it should be about 15 inches high. It is moved around every few days on short grass. The old and young are shut up in the coop at night, in storms, and when the grass is wet; at all other times they have their freedom of the little yard. The old one will not go off and leave the young, and does better for not being confined. As soon as the young are able to fly out, they may be allowed to roam and search for grasshoppers, and it is surprising how many they will devour and how they thrive on them. I generally set the first clutch of eggs under hens, seven to nine each; the turkey will then lay her second clutch in the course of a few weeks, if not allowed to sit, and they are not too late to make fine birds. Last season I tried a third clutch, but they were too late to be profitable. I weighed my first brood of last season's turkeys, with the following result—they were just eight months old: Eight gobblers weighed from 23½ lbs.

to 29½ lbs. each, and averaged 25½ lbs. Six hens, from 13½ lbs. to 15 lbs. each, averaged a little over 14 lbs. The common turkeys of the country will hardly average half these weights, so your readers can form their own opinion as to the merits of the bronze turkey.

DETERIORATION OF IMPROVED POULTRY.

When a new breed of fowls is proved to be of real value, and it is proposed to introduce it upon a farm, the way practiced is, nine times out of ten, to purchase a sitting of eggs, and breed the chickens produced, irrespective of relationship. Or, if grown fowls are first bought, they are commonly in pairs or trios related more or less closely; and, having cost a considerable sum, they are multiplied all around the neighborhood from that one stock, in-and-in for perhaps a half dozen years, and they grow weedy and scraggy, the chickens die off from weakness, and the owners get sick of the breed, vote them a humbug, and fall back on what they call the "good, old-fashioned sort." There are other deteriorating influences at work. Fancy fowls are sometimes over-fed, to produce great size, and pets and favorites are apt to be kept too fat for breeding, and anxiety for eggs leads them to too stimulating feed. Choice fowls are almost invariably confined within narrow limits, to keep them from mixing with other sorts. There is not enough air, sun and exercise, and they lack certain things to eat which they would select according to their varying needs, if at liberty. Also, there is commonly a hurry to have a costly sort of increase, and the eggs of pullets are all saved for hatching, which is a sure way to impair strength. But, on the other hand, the farmer has plenty of eggs, of the barn door sort, and the universal practice is to pick out the biggest, which are the produce of the old matrons of the flock, have a rich yolk, and make hardy chickens. The valuable breeds were improved only by time and pains, and without care be taken to bring them up to the pitch to which they have been raised, they will relapse to the old dead level of average worthlessness, or sink below it.—*Hearth and Home.*

New York Tribune.—We call attention to the advertisement of the Weekly Tribune. As a family newspaper the Weekly Tribune ranks high, and is really valuable, containing Editorials, Reviews of Works, Letters from Correspondents, Latest News by Cable, Proceedings of Congress, Stock, Financial, Cattle, Dry Goods, and General Market Report. To the farmer it will prove of interest, containing full Reports of the American Institute Farmers' Club, and a variety of Agricultural Reports, and articles by prominent Agriculturists. The Horticultural Department is under the charge of Mr. P. T. Quinn, who is eminently qualified for the position. Terms—\$2 per year—five copies, \$9. Address "The Tribune," New York.

The Dairy.

PREMIUM BUTTER AT THE STATE FAIR.

Dr. J. A. Reid, of Madison county, Va., who received the premium for the "best tub of firkin butter, not less than six months old," awarded at the late Virginia State Fair, submitted the following statement of the process of making and packing:

"We cool the milk as soon as possible after it is milked; a small portion of ice around the pans cools it very soon. The milk is allowed to stand about 24 hours before it is skimmed, and, if properly cooled when first milked, it will not thicken nor sour in that time in scarcely any weather in a well ventilated dairy. We use care in skimming to take only the cream—the less milk with the cream the better. The cream is kept in good stone jars, and churned as soon as it begins to sour. We use the barrel churn and pan, fifty to sixty revolutions per minute, with a steady, even stroke; it takes from thirty-five to forty-five minutes to make the butter come. As soon as the granules begin to form, if they are soft or of a whitish, creamy appearance, as they will be if the cream is too warm, we cool down with ice until they acquire a proper consistency. As soon as the churning is finished, we draw off the buttermilk and press the whey all out of the butter with the paddle; it is then salted at the rate of one ounce of salt to one pound of butter, which is well worked in the butter. It is then set aside for six or eight hours for the salt to dissolve and the butter to cool when it is thoroughly worked and pressed to get the whey all out of it, and pack down at once in stone jars, using the paddle and packer all the time, and never touching it with the hand. An ounce of salt is none too much, as a large portion of it is carried off with the whey in the last working of the butter. As soon as the jar is filled a thick coat of salt is put over the top of it, then a piece of paper greased by dipping it in melted suet, a cup of butter is placed over the top of that, then another fold of paper, and all secured by tying a thick cotton cloth over the mouth of the jar. Butter managed in this way will keep from May until the next spring perfectly sweet."

A VALUABLE FERTILIZER, and one in reach of every farmer, especially adapted to garden culture as well as for top dressing and field culture, is hen manure, ashes, plaster and salt mixed in equal quantities, excepting the salt, of which one fourth will be sufficient.

ONE wine grower in Los Angeles country, Cal., has made one hundred and sixty thousand gallons of wine this season.

The Apiary.

Winter Protection of Bees.

Farmers who keep only a few hives of bees, merely to obtain honey for home use, are not expected to give such particular attention to the business as those who are engaged in it largely, yet a certain amount of care is necessary to warrant a good return. Where the bees are wintered out of doors, protection from severe cold winds must be given, and may be afforded by setting posts on the north and west sides, boarding the same up closely and covering overhead.

None but strong colonies should be selected for wintering, and the weaker ones "taken up," or two united in one, which is better. To unite them, there are two simple processes: Smoke both thoroughly by burning cotton rags or rotten wood, and shake them all together upon a sheet and put them into the hive of the strongest colony; or invert the weaker of the two, set the other upon this and drive the first up by use of smoke, blown in at the base. Two swarms thus united, will consume but little more honey than one alone, as more heat is generated and less food required. Not less than fifteen or twenty pounds of honey should be allowed to a winter colony; where there is less than this, feeding will very probably be necessary, and the hives should be watched closely to see that the supply is not exhausted, and the family starved to death.—*Ohio Farmer.*

If queen cells be discovered in a hive having a fertile queen but recently introduced and apparently accepted, they should not be destroyed, but the queen should be immediately removed, caged, and given to some queenless or deprived colony, or to a newly formed nucleus. In such case there is usually an antagonistic party formed among the workers, bent on superseding the queen, and she is certain to be killed by them, sooner or later, if allowed to remain in the hive, even after all the queen cells have been destroyed.

Those who still use straw or box hives with fixed combs can, by the following method, prevent after swarming, when a swarm has issued or been drummed out of a hive. On the day after teething is first heard drum out another swarm, hive it, and set it at the side of, or on the parent hive. In the ensuing night all the supernumerary queens will be destroyed and cast out, and the one selected and retained will in due time become fertile. Most of the bees of the driven swarm will gradually leave and return to their old home, even after their young has begun to lay. When her companions have for the most part forsaken her, this queen may be substituted for the one which accompanied the first swarm, and the old queen thus got rid of.—*Am. Bee Journal.*

Ladies Department.

GONE BEFORE.

There's a beautiful face in the silent air,
Which follows me ever and near,
With smiling eyes and amber hair,
With voiceless lips, yet with breath of prayer,
That I feel but cannot hear.

The dimpled hand and ringlet of gold
Lie low in a marble sleep;
I stretch my hand for a clasp of old,
But the empty air is strangely cold,
And my vigil alone I keep.

There's a sinless brow with a radiant crown,
And a cross laid down in the dust;
There's a smile where never a shade comes now,
And tears no more from those dear eyes flow,
So sweet in their innocent trust.

Ah, well! and summer is come again,
Singing her same old songs;
But, oh! it sounds like a sob of pain,
As it floats in the sunshine and rain,
O'er the hearts of the world's great throng.

There's a beautiful region above the skies,
And I long to reach its shore,
For I know I shall find my treasure there,
The laughing eyes and amber hair
Of the loved one gone before.

SNOW-FLAKE.

Out of the bosom of the air,
Out of the cloud folds of her garments shaken,
Over the woodland brown and bare,
Over the harvest fields forsaken,
Silent, soft and slow
Descends the snow.

Even as our cloudy fancies take
Suddenly shape in some divine expression,
Even as the troubled heart doth make,
In the white countenance confession,
The troubled sky reveals
The grief it feels.

This is the poem of the air,
Slowly in silent syllables recorded:
This is the secret of despair;
Long in the cloudy bosom hoarded,
Now whispered and revealed
To wood and field.

Longfellow.

COURTING IN NEBRASKA.

EFFECT OF A SCARCITY OF SINGLE WOMEN.

A Nebraska correspondent of the *Syracuse Standard* writes as follows:

"There is lack of woman's nursing;
There is dearth of woman's tears."

Certainly not because they are unnecessary in this Western region, but the fact is the women are scarce and men are plenty. In market phrase, the woman "demand far exceeds the supply." Those inexorable laws of supply and demand, about which political and other economists delight to talk, have not yet corrected this acid question. A heavy dose of girls—none of your homœopathic prescriptions—is what Nebraska needs, and the stomachs of her young men will always remain sour until the supply comes. You have no idea East how anxious young men in this region are to marry. In the words of a prairie farmer, "courtin's hot."

The poor man is passing through a bitter experience. A party of us were duck-hunting the other day on the Missouri

bottoms. Night overtook us before we were aware of it, and we were obliged to seek lodgings at the first dwelling we could find. It was a small one-story structure of three rooms, and occupied by a family of six—father, mother, daughter and three sons. The sons were all unmarried, and from the calls that were made afterward we judge the daughter was unmarried also. We hadn't been in the house five minutes when some kind of a vehicle drove up and two young men were ushered into the parlor. Straightway the mother and daughter held a whispered consultation, which closed with an invitation to the sitting room for supper. It was evident that the young men callers had been to tea, as they stayed in the parlor with "sweet sixteen."

Scarcely had we taken our seats at the table when a howl from the dogs outdoors announced another comer. He seemed to avoid the front door, and knocked at that where our party was just sitting to supper. The mother rose to answer the summons, when we were surprised by the daughter opening the parlor door and rushing forward with "Don't get up, mother! It's one of my fellows! Come in, Jim; how do you do?"

And Jim entered in response to the cheery salutation. He made himself as comfortable as possible till we had finished supper, when another whispered consultation proved that the "parlor is full as it ort to be," whispered by Miss in response to some motherly suggestion. The old gentleman solved the question by inviting us into the kitchen to smoke. It was evident that Jim didn't smoke, for he remained in the sitting-room. We should have doubtless enjoyed a quiet cigar had not the old lady opened the back door, and shouted at the top of her voice: "Come 'round here to the back door."

It was another young man, and we fancied he looked as if he had come in rather late. Two young men within the parlor, one in the sitting room, and one in the kitchen. What should be done? The courting business was getting hot! There was another talk between mother and daughter. It was evident their devices had been exhausted. The old gentleman was called into the corner. He settled the question with a whisper: "I'll be damned if I move again till the settin' room's full!"

Into the sitting room went number four, and we smoked. It was full ten minutes before the next disturbers came, and they entered the kitchen with the air of old acquaintances. We looked anxiously at the host. Taking his pipe from his mouth, a single sentence relieved us:

"Them's the widowers! Stick!"

And we "stuck" and smoked on. For the next half hour the girl must have been kept busy. The widower had certainly a third of her time. It was 9 o'clock. We wished to go to bed, and the only bed we had discovered was in the parlor. The old gentleman divined our wishes, and said:

"I'm sorry, gentlemen, but this is one of the regular courtin' nights! Them two fellers in the parlor never leave afore midnight, and the widowers allus stay all night. And that ain't the worst of it. Dan'll be here at 10 o'clock! I and the boys allus sleep in the haystack Friday nights. Yer welcome to that!"

The parlor, sitting-room and kitchen full, we retreated to the haystack. In response to a question on the point, the old gentleman said that—

"Friday night it's putty bad, but Sunday it's wuss. Last Sunday night there was ten on 'em, and the girl is getting more and more partikiler. The more she gets the more she wants!"

On the haystack, with a stiff breeze driving away the mosquitos, we heard Dan drive up. One of the last remarks of the old man before we fell asleep was, "Yes, gentlemen, courtin's hot in Nebraska!" And we believed him.

Boys and Girls Department.

INTRODUCTION.

BY UNCLE FRANK.

My dear Boys and Girls:

It is with a variety of feelings, accompanied by much embarrassment, that I make my bow before the very large number of boys and girls, who constitute the juvenile reading portion of those brought within the influence of the *Maryland Farmer's* large and enlarging circle of operations. I have been trying to calculate how many of you I should be obliged to address at this time, and put the number down at fifty thousand to start with, with a prospect of adding fifty thousand and more to the number before the end of the year.

What an audience! Where could we find a building large enough to hold so many people, even if they are little people?

And is it any wonder that I feel embarrassed before such a large crowd? And is it not singular that it is found more difficult to speak and write to you, than to older boys and girls, who have been sobered down by the cares of mature years? A great man once said that "men—and of course he meant grown up women too—are but children of a larger growth," meaning, I suppose, that they had pretty much the same peculiarity as you of the smaller growth, but at any rate, I always find it harder to amuse and instruct you, than some of the larger children, who are fathers and mothers and grand parents! why it is so, I will try to explain some time, perhaps, in the "Big Folks" department.

Now, I will tell you why I am making out my case such a hard one: I want help.

When a person has been unfortunate, and seeks help from the people, he gets out a paper, or some kind friend gets it up for him, stating how very much he needs the assistance of others, how he has been prostrated by sickness or accident with a large family depending upon him, or something of that kind, and what a very worthy person he is to receive help.

Of course I am a very worthy person; if I was not I could not appeal with so much confidence for your assistance: what kind I want I will tell you after a while.

I said something about a big building to hold fifty or a hundred thousand people! Do you think there was ever such a building? Do you think there is one in existence now? Remember that a building is very large that will hold five thousand people and the ordinary gatherings you see at fairs, camp meetings, celebrations and festivals in the country rarely exceed five hundred or a thousand persons.

Well, here is a question for us to decide right off! We are getting into the business immediately and I will make a request before I forget it.

I want you—all the boys and girls—readers of this department to send in your opinions concerning the largest building that ever was erected, with the name of the builder, place, time and object of its erection; number of people it would hold, dimensions, comparative height, capacity and any other particulars you deem worthy of mention.

Now let us see who is the best scholar on buildings in our department: and all that are "passed," that is considered suitable, will be printed in our department.

I said also, in the beginning, that I felt a variety of emotions upon being compelled to address myself to you: we are to be companions on a long voyage: I expect we shall sail for twelve long months down the river of Time together, and the publishers of the *Maryland Farmer*, anxious to contribute to your enjoyment on the trip have asked me to go along for "company." This is very flattering to me: I didn't know I was such a "jolly fellow;" why, long, long years ago when I was a boy, they used to call me "deacon," on account of my "long face" I suppose; it must be much shorter now to receive such an invitation: however, I am one for the journey; here we go!

"All aboard"—cries the captain! up comes the anchor; in comes the ropes; out go the sail; and we are fairly on the way.

Now, let us get acquainted, to make the trip a pleasant one for all on board. In the first place, I think we ought to do something for the publishers to show our appreciation of their attention to our comfort: and they are right, to show us so much attention, we deserve it: they show their spirit and energy by wanting to amuse us instead of compelling us to send our subscription money away off hun-

dreds of miles for juvenile literature: grown up people do not pay attention enough to us farmers' boys and girls: they give us plenty of work but not enough fun: work is a first rate thing and we must always do it cheerfully, but we want something to amuse us at our own firesides, without going away from home for it.

If I had time I would tell you a story about some boys that had no fun at home: put me in mind of it and I will tell it in another number, and what became of them.

Now, to repay the publishers, I will tell you what we can do, but don't say anything to them about it: I will give the boy or girl who sends in the largest number of subscribers to the *Maryland Farmer*, a steam engine.

"What," says little Will, "a steam engine! a real steam engine?"

"Yes; not one big enough to pull a large train of cars, but one big enough to pull a small train and drive small toys: and I will give the boy or girl who sends the next largest number, a steam engine also, and to the sender of the third number, another steam engine. I have a good object in view in sending all steam engines, which I will explain in the future.

Now, send on your subscribers and let us see who are the three smartest canvassers in our department.

As for the voyage, it is no wonder I am seriously impressed, when I find I am to act in the capacity of counselor—companion—friend—arbitrator—for I shall perhaps be obliged to settle all disputes—story-teller—and I don't know what purposes you will put me to before the journey is over; but I know this, that I will endeavor in all things to be a faithful counselor, a safe companion and a warm friend; pointing out danger wherever I shall see it; warning you from evil associates; inculcating principles of honesty for all transactions in life, from the smallest to the greatest, that the foundations you are now laying may be those upon which you may build an edifice for present and future usefulness, prosperity and excellence: that the world may say of you in old age and after old age, "the earth was a proper battle ground for the display of his (or her) deeds and virtues."

In conclusion, I wish to consult you upon another feature of our department: I did think of putting up a sign in large letters over it like this—

"POSITIVELY NO ADMITTANCE TO PERSONS OVER SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE."

but I concluded to let everybody come in and stay as long as they behave themselves; look over our shoulders and keep quiet: but the first person that says "pshaw! what a silly set you are," I will ask him to please leave us to our own enjoyment, and tell him we will excuse him if he must go away: now, what do you think of that plan? I intend to establish in this department a

POST OFFICE,

At which I will receive letters from all boys and girls who have any questions to ask, any riddles or puzzles or enigmas or square words (everything must be original) to send, any compositions they wish me to criticise or publish in regard to our department, and answers to the various questions which from time to time shall be asked in these columns; and as my long letter will answer until I hear from you I will bid you now a sincere, earnest and affectionate, good bye.

UNCLE FRANK.

Direct all letters pertaining to the Boys and Girls Department to "UNCLE FRANK," *Maryland Farmer Office*, Baltimore.

Vick's Floral Guide.—Vick's Floral Guide for 1872 is a real gem—superbly printed in two colors, on tinted paper, with scores of illustrations of Flowers, with full descriptions, together with much useful information for the lovers of the beautiful. It contains directions for ornamenting grounds, gives names of plants needed for special purposes, hints on sowing seeds and transplanting, &c.—Vick has become immortal in his line. Send for a Catalogue by all means. See advertisement.

Beautiful Snow; and other Poems.—By J. W. Watson. Philadelphia: F. B. Peterson & Brothers. Price \$2. For sale by E. F. Nicholson, Baltimore.

We have received a copy of this book, published as above. It contains the popular poem "Beautiful Snow," "The Sailing of the Yacht," "Ring down the Drop, I cannot Pray," "The Dying Soldier," and other poems written by Mr. Watson. These poems possess great interest, and display a lively and pleasant fancy, as well as a genuine, hearty sympathy with all the joys and sorrows of humanity.

Hygienic.

Toothache, Earache, Etc.

A little work just published, entitled "First Help in Accidents," speaks of these complaints, so prevalent at this season of the year, as follows:

"It is a bad practice to put cotton wool, soaked in laudanum or chloroform, into the ear for the relief of toothache. It is true that it may sometimes prove effectual, and procure a night's rest, for the connection between the teeth and the ear is very close. But let it be borne in mind that the ear is far too delicate and valuable an organ to be used as a medium for the application of strong remedies for disorders of the teeth, and that both laudanum and chloroform, more especially the latter, are powerful irritants, and that such applications are always accompanied with risk. The teeth should be looked after for themselves, by some competent dentist; and if toothache spreads to the ear, this is another reason why they should be attended to at once; for prolonged pain in the head, arising from the teeth, may itself injure the hearing. In earache everything should be done to soothe it, and all strong irritating applications should be avoided. Pieces of hot fig or onion should on no account be put in; but warm flannels should be applied, with poppy fomentation externally, if the pain does not soon subside."

Simple Cure for Rheumatism.

The Call furnishes the following as a cure for this painful disease:

"Boil a small potful of potatoes, and bathe the part affected with the water in which the potatoes were boiled, as hot as can be applied, immediately before going to bed. The pain will be removed, or at least alleviated, by the next morning. Some of the most obstinate rheumatic pains have lately been cured by one application of this novel and simple remedy."

Chapped Hands.

The easiest and simplest remedy is found in every store. Take common starch and grind it with a knife until it is reduced to the smoothest powder. Take a tin box and fill it with starch thus prepared, so as to have it continually at hand for use. Then every time the hands are taken from the suds, or dish-water, rinse them thoroughly in clean water, wipe them, and while they are yet damp, rub a pinch of the starch thoroughly over them, covering the whole surface.

The effect is magical. The rough, smarting skin is cooled, soothed and healed, bringing and insuring the greatest degree of comfort and freedom from this, by no means insignificant trial. We know many persons formerly afflicted with hands that would chap until the blood oozed from many minute crevices, completely freed from the trouble by the use of this simple remedy.

APPLES.—We do not use apples enough in our families. Baked sweet apples should be on our tables every day. Some prefer sour apples. We should use them in pies, tarts, puddings, apple sauce, apple butter, or in some way every day. They are more healthy than wheat and pork.

It is said that the white of an egg given in sweetened water, is a cure for the croup. The remedy is to be repeated till a cure is effected,

USEFUL RECIPES.

The following recipes we glean from the *American Stock Journal*:

WORMS IN HORSES.—Divide six ounces of iron filings among twelve balls, and give one every morning until they are finished and then give a dose of aloes (six drachms, in ball, with two drachms of ginger) which will cause the expulsion of any worms which remain in the horses intestines.

HEAVES IN HORSES.—Treatment, to do good permanently, must be by gradual and progressive improvement: five grain doses of arsenic given once in twenty-four hours, for two weeks; then, after a weeks intermission, commencing as before, will cure any cases. Give as little hay or rough feed in large bulk, as possible. Improve the condition of the horse by every way or means and the animal will be relieved. •

CURE ON THE HOCK.—A recent curb is generally easily reduced by rest, cooling and afterwards stimulating applications or blistering. By these means it may often be perfectly cured; sometimes permanently. But this is by no means certain; for it is in no way improbable that it will be brought on again by exertion.

KIDNEY DISEASE IN HOGS.—A spoonful of spirits of turpentine rubbed on over the kidneys twice a day, and if the skin is rough and hard, rub it first with a curry comb to open the pores. I have seen hogs that had been disabled three weeks cured in three days by this treatment, and never heard of a failure.

FROST IN COWS TEATS.—The best remedy I know of is the following: Take equal parts of snow water (the snow being melted by the fire) and flax seed oil, mix well, and apply it morning and evening. A few dressings will cure the worst cases. It has for me. Try it.

HOG CHOLERA.—The best remedy we have ever tried is to take one peck of wood ashes, four pounds salt, one pound black antimony, one pound coppers, one pound sulphur, quarter-pound saltpeter, pound and mix thoroughly; moisten enough to prevent waste: put in a trough in a dry place where the hogs can at all times eat just as much as they please of it. If predisposed to cholera they will eat it very freely, and it will make something of an item of expense, for a time; at other times they will eat less, or perhaps none at all.

SADDLE SORES.—Take a little finely-powdered burnt alum, and dredge it over the surface of the diseased part three or four times a day until a dry scab is secured.

SLAVERING HORSES.—It is stated on the best authority that a dose or two of dry wheat brand has never failed in curbing slobbers in horses.

TO PREVENT WOUNDS FROM MORTIFYING.—Sprinkle sugar on them. The Tuks wash fresh wounds with wine, and sprinkle sugar on them. Obstinate ulcers may be cured with sugar dissolved in a strong decoction of walnut leaves.

FOUL FEET IN CATTLE.—Cleanse the sore, and cut away all the loose or separated horn and proud flesh, and afterwards dress the sore with a little butyr of antimony, and turn the beast into a dry pasture. Keep dry while under treatment.

Briggs & Brothers, Seedsmen.—We call attention to the advertisement of this firm at Rochester, New York. This firm is largely engaged in the seed business. It is a reliable house, and those interested are directed to send for their New Catalogue, which is most elaborately gotten up, with cuts of Flowers, Vegetables, and Colored Plates.

ENTOMOLOGICAL.

The Enemies of the Rose.

One of the worst enemies is the *Aphis rosæ*, which sometimes covers all the young branches and exhausts the sap from the tender leaves and shoots. The female aphid produces her young throughout the entire year, and is particularly active on plants which are kept in warm rooms. These are most effectually destroyed by brushing them with a soft brush into a basin filled with tobacco juice. They may also be killed by fumigating with tobacco smoke or the vapor of burning solanum and tomato leaves; but it is advisable to sprinkle the plants well with water, so that the atmosphere may not become too dry from the effect of the fumigation. Another very troublesome insect is the *red spider* (acariis tetrarius) which is generally found on the under side of the leaf. It sucks the sap from the leaves, which drop off, and the plant appears in a sickly condition. This pest may be destroyed by sprinkling the plants, and particularly the under side of the leaves, with soot dissolved in water; this remedy is at the same time a good fertilizer.—*California Horticulturist*.

TO CATCH CUT-WORMS.

It is very annoying, says the *Rural Carolinian*, after having set out a nice lot of sweet potato or cabbage plants to see them cut down, one by one, by cut-worms. We have tried ashes, lime, soot, and, in fact, everything we have ever heard of, but never found anything effectual until, by accident, we found three or four of the worms one morning, gathered under a small board, which had been left by some children on a sweet potato hill. Acting upon this hint, we placed small pieces of board, large chips, etc., all through the patch, and we trapped them by hundreds. The boards must be lifted early in the morning, and on very warm days, again about noon. A little care, for a few days, will clear these pests out of the garden. One trial will satisfy any person of the merits of this plan.

THE CODLING WORM.—An apple grower in New York, whose orchard has been to some extent infested with this pest, says late fall powing has reduced their numbers very materially, and if closely followed, he thinks this practice will exterminate them from an orchard. As the parent worms winter in the ground, if they are cast to the surface when torpid late in the fall, death ensues.

SCIENTIFIC.

Safety Kerosene Lamp.

A correspondent of the *Scientific American* gives the following directions for using a kerosene lamp so as to insure perfect safety. The plan promises well, and is worthy of trial:

"I cram all the wick that I possibly can into the lamp, fill up the interstices with sponge, and saturate the whole thoroughly with kerosene. I have always found the supply sufficient for the longest winter night; as long as any oil remains in the wick, the lamp keeps burning. I have had this fairly tested. One of my little ones—a two-year-old—contrived to upset a small table supporting a lamp. With the exception of breaking the glass, no further damage was done, not even soiling the carpet. In fact, my plan was brought about by a similar accident, and a narrow escape from serious damage. As the wick burns away I keep filling up with the sponge, and I think I have the nearest approach to a safety lamp."

Artificial Rain.

In England, where experimental agriculture is carried to an extent almost unknown with us, the invention of methods of irrigation has been very ingenious. At Stoke Park, a tract of twenty acres is irrigated by artificial rain, the system being quite successful. The water was applied every night last summer in showers, excepting when natural rain made it unnecessary. The apparatus consist of pipes laid in the ground, supplied from an elevated reservoir, into which water is pumped by machinery. The financial exhibit made by the results of the experiment is said to be a good one. The interest on the money invested in the necessary machinery, and the cost of operating it, aggregated \$95 per acre for the entire tract of twenty acres. Likewise the income per acre aggregated \$200, being made up of the proceeds of one crop of grass and grazing in autumn of 1879, and two crops of hay in 1871. The net profit was thus \$105 per acre. On land of the same tract and same character, used for the same purpose, but where the irrigation was omitted, the net profit per acre was \$45.

An Artificial Whirlwind.

The fact that whirlwinds are caused by upward currents of heated air, was recently demonstrated in the town of Queensburg, N. Y. A farmer having occasion to burn a yellow-pine fallow of some twenty acres fearing that the fire might spread into the adjacent timber, ignited the fallow in several places on the edge, after taking the precaution of cleaning off the brush from a strip surrounding it. The flames rushing toward the centre from every direction, the air and smoke soon assumed a rotary motion, which increased in intensity. This whirlwind (for such it was), after becoming fairly formed, moved with wonderful velocity on its axis, tearing up small trees by the roots and lifting them into the air, stripping the branches from some that adhered too firmly to the ground, and fairly wringing the bark from others. It was accompanied by a noise resembling thunder, and lasted from five to ten minutes, but did not pass the bounds of the fallow, although it swayed back and forth across the field of fire several times.

RAIN and snow storms travel from the west towards the east in the United States, during the months of November, December, January, February and March.

WHEN a storm commences in the United States, the line of minimum pressure does not come from the "far west," but commences with the storm, and travels with it toward the eastward.